

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 24, 2015

Background notes for Monday, April 27th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Park and Recreation Commission will meet on Monday, April 27th at 6:30 PM in the Café at the Center at the Heights (new Senior Center). The meeting will be brief, so that the Commission may attend the League of Women Voters Warrant Meeting at 7:30 PM. The Commission will also re-organize, choosing a new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Commission will meet once in May, on Monday, May 18th. The Commission has meeting conflicts on May 11th (Town Meeting) and May 25th (Memorial Day). The meeting on May 18th will be at PSAB – Charles River Room.

WELCOME COMMISSIONER GERSTEL

This is the first official meeting for new Commissioner Chris Gerstel...though he's been a regular at the Commission meetings for several months! I look forward to many years working with Mr. Gerstel!!

RAIL TRAIL

The contractor began clearing the overgrowth along the right-of-way on Tuesday, April 21st. There was quite a bit after the winter, so DPW Parks and Forestry has assisted with some of the clearing. We anticipate that the rail removals will begin on Monday, April 27th, which will take a few weeks, and will be followed with wooden tie removals. We anticipate the work to be done by the beginning of June.

The newly formed Rail Trail Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:15 PM at PSAB/Charles River Room. This will be a short, introductory meeting, to get started. Mike Retzky is representing the Commission on the committee, and Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I are ex-officio members.

BLUE TREE

The new "Blue Tree" – a sugar maple - was planted on Monday, April 20 and a celebration was held on Friday, April 24th. It is obviously smaller than the tree it replaces, but it is large for a transplanted tree.

SPECIAL TREAT

Assistant Director Robyn Fink was a volunteer at the Boston Marathon, in the medical tent at Mile 25. It was a great opportunity for a half-marathon runner – who is inspired to one day run Boston!

UPCOMING DATES

- Saturday, April 25 – *Take a Hike* – proposed Aqueduct Trail (rescheduled from earlier date)
 - Monday, April 27 – Commission Meeting
 - Monday, April 27 – League of Women Voters Warrant Meeting
 - Tuesday, April 28 – fish stocking at Reservoir – with Pollard students
 - Thursday, April 30 – *Take a Hike* – Rosemary Trail with Cindy Chaston
 - Thursday, April 30 – *Tyke Hike* – with Kristen Wright
 - Saturday, May 2 – Fishing Derby
 - Monday, May 4 – Town Meeting
 - Wednesday, May 6 – Town Meeting
 - Thursday, May 7 – public input meeting on Reservoir ADA Trail
 - Monday, May 11 – Town Meeting
 - Wednesday, May 13 – possible Town Meeting
 - Saturday, May 16 – Touch the Trucks – National Public Works Week
 - Monday, May 18 – Commission Meeting
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