

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**July 9, 2015**

*Background notes for Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**JULY 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

The PPBC, with user representatives Mr. Toolan and Ms. Carey, will be interviewing three firms for the pool design project at the PPBC July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, so the Park and Recreation Commission will meet at 6:30 PM in the back section of the Library Community Room, and then join the PPBC after 7:30 PM for the interviews.

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**COMMISSION GOALS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS**

This is a reminder to the Commission members to bring your copies of the goals, policies and regulations for a discussion on each document.

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**SUMMER PROGRAMS AND THE POOL**

We've had a great start to the summer season at the programs and at the pool. We enjoy hearing lots of great stories from the staff, some of which we'll capture each week in the staff newsletter...The PARK & REcord.

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**RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Rail Trail Advisory Committee will hold their next meeting on the actual trail – Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, starting from the parking lot off Fisher Street at DCR's Red Wing Bay. Anyone is welcome to join the committee on its walk and discussion.

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**ARTS IN THE PARKS**

The summer concert series is on Thursday nights from July 9 – August 13 at 7 PM at Memorial Park, with an indoor location at the High School in case of rain. These are free concerts, thanks to sponsorship from several Needham businesses/organizations, including Louise Condon Realty, Needham Exchange Club, Dedham Savings Bank and Middlesex Savings Bank. The Tuesday afternoon performances are at 1:30 PM at Mitchell, and began on July 7 and will continue through July 28. Children's Theatre is sponsored by Parent Talk.

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**YMCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Charles River YMCA's new Executive Director is Paula Jacobson. She lives in Westwood, but has been working recently at YMCA's in Rhode Island, so is happy to have a nice short commute. We had a meeting last week with the Acting Executive Director Wendy Zinn, and I offered to assist with the transition. The YMCA and Needham are fortunate to have someone with her experience and abilities.

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**FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS AND POOL EVENTS**

Last year, I invited the Needham Sharks Swim Team to offer a Friday Fun Night at the pool in August, which they were excited to do, but it was cold and rainy on the chosen

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night. So, this year, they are back during National Shark Week with a fun event planned for Friday night, July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Pool staff has six more Friday Fun Nights planned this summer, so we are hoping for good weather on Friday nights this summer! Special thanks to Assistant Director Robyn Fink and the pool staff for organizing a fun set of events for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July "swim meet." The weather wasn't pool weather, but all the visitors that day had lots of fun. Congratulations to Needham Exchange Club for a fabulous two days of celebrations on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

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### **FACEBOOK**

Thank you to Administrative Specialist Kristen Wright with help from Assistant Director Robyn Fink and Acting Recreation Supervisor Maura Tully for keeping our Facebook page active with announcements and photos. We are at "Town of Needham – Park and Recreation." We are just in the process of starting an Instagram account at "Needhamandr." We hope you'll join us on both.

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### **FIELDS**

Eversource has been doing some spot removals of trees at DeFazio, coordinating the work through Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen. Though there is still a discussion about them cutting all trees down at DeFazio, that project has not move forward. It appears that a "rogue coach" has taken it upon him/herself to mow some of the infield area at Walker-Gordon. It was cut too short for the current weather pattern, so may be an issue in future weeks. Parks and Forestry will do their best to restore the area. Most fields have received their annual summer maintenance, with fertilization and aeration. A few areas received a grub control treatment. Many of the diamonds were cleaned and re-cut during the final week of June, and Parks and Forestry will get out to work on others in the coming weeks. The Newman project is moving forward on schedule at this time.

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