

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**August 6, 2015**

*Background notes for Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING AND FALL MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Commission's meeting will end by around 8 PM, so they can join the summer program and pool staff at Rosemary Pool for a thank-you event.

*The Commission typically meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month.*

August 24<sup>th</sup> – meeting jointly with PPBC to “kick-off” the Pool design project

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown on the 13<sup>th</sup> - *reschedule*

September 28<sup>th</sup>

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day - *reschedule*

October 26<sup>th</sup>

November 9<sup>th</sup>

November 23<sup>rd</sup>

December 14<sup>th</sup>

December 28<sup>th</sup> – often cancelled due to holidays

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**MILLS FIELD PROJECT**

The parking project at Mills Field needs to go before the Planning Board. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

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**NEW ENGLAND SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION**

On Tuesday, I was excited to attend the summer workshop sponsored by the New England Sports Turf Managers Association, with Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Naughton. Ed is on the Board of Directors, and well-respected in the association. The session was held at Gillette Stadium and included a tour of the fields and facilities with the head groundskeeper. The key speaker was Dr. Andrew McNitt from UPenn. He leads up the research department on all types of athletic fields – natural turf and synthetic. I've read many of his articles outlining his research and shared with the Commission in the past. He does a fabulous job explaining scientific information, and reducing concerns. His website at UPenn has lots of links to research information.

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**ARTS IN THE PARKS**

4EverFab will be the final Arts in the Parks concert of the summer on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The summer concerts are free, due to generous donations, and are at Memorial Park, starting at 7 PM.

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**RAIL TRAIL UPDATE**

The bid documents are available now, with all submittals due by August 13<sup>th</sup>. Five companies attended the optional pre-bid meeting, and at this writing, nine companies

have taken out the bid specs. Once everything is resolved with the contract paperwork, we hope to have the work begin right after Labor Day. The Town Manager, Police Department representative and I met with a safety official from the MBTA on the trail last week. The MBTA had installed a fence at the bridge over the Charles River this winter, but the chain link was cut open, giving access to the bridge which had been damaged in a fire last year. The MBTA is researching different fencing options to make it more secure. The fence on the Dover side of the bridge is still in place.

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### **PROJECT VAN**

Needham Youth Services offers this volunteer opportunity each summer. Participants assist on projects throughout the community, including two related to Park and Recreation. Each year, the volunteers work with our Cricketeer staff to provide a "carnival" special event at Cricketeer Adventure. This year, as in the past, it was a successful event. Project Van also works on a park project, under the guidance of Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen. This summer's project was at Perry Park, and is featured in this week's Needham Times. Parks and Forestry crew worked alongside the volunteers to do a beautification project throughout the park. The extra hands are a great help, so that a lot was accomplished on a very hot day. Drive by when you have the chance!

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### **SOLAR BENCHES**

Through a special program, the Town has purchased three solar benches. The primary purpose is a bench, but the secondary purpose is to provide a solar charging station. The first one has been installed in the area between Chestnut Street and the public parking area. One will also be installed at Greene's Field, most likely within the playground area.

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### **DESIGN CONSULTANTS**

Through the DPW, the Town is putting out a Request for Proposals (RFQ) to have some "on call" designers for some projects, including athletic field design, irrigation design, trail design, boat launch design, and feasibility studies/master plans. We hope to have some firms approved this fall, so we can work on the update for the Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well as the design for the boat launch project.

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### **COACH DON BROCK RETIREMENT**

Coach Brock's career will be celebrated on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a dedication of a new scoreboard and bleachers at 12:30 PM, immediately followed by a Varsity Soccer Game vs. Newton South at 1 PM. A celebration will be held at the Needham Sheraton at 6:30 PM. Donation and ticket information is available at <http://www.needhamsoccer.com/Events/CoachDonBrockRetirement/tabid/19117/Default.aspx>

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