

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 25, 2016

*Background notes for Monday, February 29th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MEETING UPDATE

The Commission's 2/8/16 meeting was cancelled due to snow, and the 2/22/16 meeting was moved to 2/29/16 due to some schedule conflicts. This is likely to be a long meeting as the Commission catches up on business!

Finance Director David Davison will attend the meeting to discuss possible fundraising opportunities for the Rosemary Recreation project.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC has met with the proponents of proposals, including representatives for the dredging of Rosemary Lake, drainage improvements to Memorial Park, and design funds for Rosemary Recreation Complex. The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th at 7:30 PM in Powers Hall at Town Hall.

TRAILS UPDATE

Conservation Director Matt Varrell and I attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting this week. Matt put together a visual presentation of the various trails projects undertaken over the past year, with some great photos and videos. We hope to formalize the presentation, so that it can be placed on the website and on Facebook.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Matt Varrell and I are pulling together the background information needed to update Needham's Open Space and Recreation Plan. One of the on-call engineering/design consultants will be chosen to work with the Town on this up-date. The Commission will have an active role on the update.

CHARLES RIVER BOAT LAUNCH

One of the on-call engineering/design firms will be chosen to work with us on the design for improvements to the boat launch area off Dedham Avenue/South Street to the Charles River.

RESERVOIR TRAIL DESIGN

Matt Varrell and I are working with BETA to complete the final tasks on the design for the all-person Reservoir Trail. We hope to have the project go through the permitting process through Conservation Commission and Planning Board later this spring, so that we'll be prepared to request CPA funding in December for construction. Matt has submitted a trails grant request to the state for this project. We hope to hear the status of

the request by early fall. We were the recipient of this grant last fall for the rail trail project.

MILLS RESTROOM

DPW has a lengthy list of bids to work on, but I'll start working with them shortly on the bid for the pre-cast restroom for Mills Field.

SYNTHETIC TURF STUDIES

The Town of Needham does annual extensive studying of the synthetic turf fields with the Health Department. To date, no elevated chemical levels have been found. The federal government is beginning a new round of testing, as there are still perceptions that there might be concerns with crumb rubber in-fill, or the synthetic fibers. Needham will start researching the replacement carpet and infill in the near future, preparing for the planned replacement in a few years.
