

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**March 10, 2016**

*Background notes for Monday, March 14th  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

The Town has had an IPM Plan for many years, and keeps the individual school plans updated annually. The purpose of the plan is to determine maintenance plans to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals indoors and outdoors, and when needed, choose the lowest risk control for safety reasons, and not maintenance for aesthetics. An example of an IPM decision is with bees. Honey bees are not harmful to people, so when found, a local company is brought in to relocate the hive. If the type of insect is at a site with children with severe allergies, the area is sprayed, with proper notification. The IPM Committee meets at least once a year, and recently met to provide updates on maintenance. There are a few schools that have baits in place for termite control, but they have not needed to be re-baited in recent years. Outdoors, there have been a few sprays for poison ivy or bees, and low-risk treatments at a few parks for winter moth and grubs. Research is currently underway on a product called A.D.I.O.S (advanced development in organic solutions) for use on diamond infields for weed control. The primary ingredient is salt.

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**EVERSOURCE**

Representatives of Eversource will attend the Commission meeting to discuss the West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project. They are required to separate two lines between the two locations, and would likely need to request an easement across some property under Park and Recreation's jurisdiction. This is just an initial discussion, and no decisions need to be made. A public open house will be hosted by Eversource at Broadmeadow Performance Center from 7-9 PM, providing an opportunity for residents to meet with officials and gather information.

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**RAIL TRAIL**

Stop by the rail trail and see the new bollard covers and signs. The blue bollards are very visible from the road, so hopefully will help alert drivers to the crossing, as well as alert path users of the upcoming street crossing.

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**RETIREMENTS**

Two of our long-time senior program coordinators are retiring this spring. Adele Chang has been teaching one of our senior exercise programs for more than 20 years, and prior to that taught an adult dance/exercise program. Andy Dorsey has been the Senior Golf League Coordinator for about 15 years. Both have been exemplary at their work – with lots of “fans” from their programs, consistent and reliable. Both will be missed!!!

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**CONFERENCES/TRAINING**

The Director and Assistant Director will be attending the MA Recreation and Park Association Conference on March 21-23. Assistant Director Robyn Fink is a member of the conference committee. The Recreation Supervisor will be attending the NE American Camp Association's annual conference March 31-April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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