

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**August 4, 2016**

*Background notes for Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Rosemary Recreation Complex project will be presented to the Design Review Committee on Monday night. They meet upstairs at PSAB, so Chairman Matt Toolan and I will go up to the meeting with BH+A and Project Manager Mike Retzky to show the design concepts. They give input on the overall look to the exterior of the facility and landscaping. This is not a permitting process, but advisory, and is part of the process for submitting a permit application to the Planning Board.

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**ROSEMARY POOL DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee will join the Park and Recreation Commission for a joint meeting at the beginning of the August 8<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

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**EVERSOURCE**

Representatives from Eversource met with the Town Manager and Town Counsel after the Commission's last meeting. Eversource needs to complete some technical/legal work with the Town prior to the Special Town Meeting warrant closing on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Commission approved the test borings and pits, which helps with the final design plans, but the work won't be done prior to August 16<sup>th</sup> so there may need to be a request for a 30' easement rather than 20' to insure that the needed property is available for the construction. It isn't anticipated that there will be many issues since a good portion of the easement area is within areas with fill and no ledge. Town Counsel David Tobin is reviewing state law to determine what votes are needed by the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen. It is likely that Eversource will return to the Commission's August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting with an update, and Town Counsel will provide the specific wording needed for a motion. The final easement agreement will also include the requirements for restoration of the land, including additional landscaping at property lines.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

Monday, August 8     Design Review – Rosemary Project – 7:30 PM  
Thursday, August 11   Arts in the Parks – The Reminisants – Memorial Park at 7 PM  
Thursday, August 11   ConCom – Reservoir ADA Trail – at 7:45 PM  
Thursday, August 11   ConCom – sediment removal sampling – 8:30 PM  
Friday, August 12     Friday Fun Night – P&R Olympics – Rosemary Pool  
Saturday, August 13   Tour of Rosemary Property at 10 AM from parking lot  
Wed, August 17        Open House Celebration of Rosemary Pool – 4-8 PM

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### **CANADA GEESE**

The non-migratory Canada Geese have returned early this year, likely due to the mild winter. They are most evident at Memorial Park, Walker-Gordon, and Rosemary Pool. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I have met with a goose specialist and the IMP Committee. We are going to hire the firm to bring in a trained border collie for three sites for some quick visits, and then pilot a treatment at the two parks.

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### **WALKER POND**

Back in 1995-1996, we worked with some neighbors of Walker Pond to raise funds to hire a firm to remove the overgrowth of lilies that were choking the pond. The project was about \$25,000 and required local, state and federal permits. Park and Recreation funded a few years of follow-up chemical treatment, through an Order of Conditions with the Conservation Commission. Over the years, the lilies weren't overwhelming, but slowly algae and other growth appeared. I worked with an engineering professor and his students on the possibility of a solar powered fountain that could add oxygen into the water, which would help prevent some of the growth. We also worked with neighbors on how to maintain their properties to prevent issues with the pond. But, in twenty years, the algae has taken over. Conservation Director Matt Varrell has been working with some neighbors, who again are willing to assist. Most of their ideas are short-term approaches, but Matt and the Conservation Commission would prefer Town funds go towards long-term solutions. Some of the neighbors feel that the maintenance of the new field at Walker-Gordon is part of the issue, but the organic fertilizer does not include the ingredients that would impact the water. The pond certainly receives run-off from Central Avenue, and from lawn treatments from homes within the watershed area, and in some cases, the dumping of lawn clippings. The Canada geese also contribute to the build-up of nutrients. Matt and I will continue to investigate the possibilities and come to the Park and Recreation Commission with some options.

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