

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 26, 2017

Background notes for Tuesday, May 30th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

ANNUAL RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

The Commission will re-organize, voting on Chairman and Vice Chairman at the conclusion of this meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Commission Meetings: Monday, June 12 and Monday, June 26

FIRE STATION # 2

Director of Design/Construction Steve Popper will be attending the Commission's meeting to give an overview of the construction process for the Rosemary project. In addition, he would like to discuss the design work for Fire Station # 2, and the need for a temporary site for the station during construction.

PARKING

Vice Chairman Chris Gerstel has submitted a request to Traffic Management Advisory Committee regarding possible placement of cautionary speed signs on the DeFazio driveway. While at Touch the Trucks, DPW Director Rick Merson and I observed parents driving quickly into the lot, ignoring the "do not enter" signs, and dropping children off at the head of the driveway.

I've submitted a request for new parking signs at Mills. Some of the area businesses have been using the new spaces on Hampton Avenue for all-day parking. I've also spoken to a business owner in the area whose lots have been impacted by overflow parking from employees not working in his buildings.

We'll be attending the Wednesday, June 14th meeting for both requests.

DeFAZIO PARKING LOT

Additional barriers have been purchased, and have been added in the DeFazio lot this week, but in a configuration that helps provide additional parking for the tournament. Next week, they will move into their regular parking pattern. One of the consequences of having the parking format is that more ruts appear in the driving lanes. DPW will continue to back-blade the lot on a regular basis.

MILLS FIELD

The concrete pathway to the new restroom and the bubbler has been installed, so that both are ADA accessible. All funding has now been spent for improvements, so Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I will look at submitting a funding request to

renovate the Mills Field basketball court. We are going to look at some others, and consider a request for upgrading a few courts.

RAIL TRAIL

Temporary Office Assistant Lisa Vergara has created an official Rail Trail map. We will get it posted on-line with other trail maps, and also posted in the new kiosks. NHS Rail Trail Club member Conner Jahn received a community service award from the Needham Exchange Club, which includes a \$500 check to the project. I'm working with the Bay Colony Rail Trail Association on the possible purchase of a bench mid-way on the trail.

ALL-PERSON TRAIL AT RESERVOIR

Town Meeting approved construction funding for the revitalized trail around the Reservoir. Bids were opened prior to Town Meeting, and the contract has been awarded to M.J. Cataldo, the firm that did the work on the Eastman Trail at Newman. All the paperwork is underway, and work will begin this summer and be finished by winter time. The trail will need to be closed, which provides a challenge to the regular users, as well as those who fish, but the temporary closure will lead towards a much more usable facility.

DPW FUEL ISLAND

Town Meeting approved the construction funding for the new DPW fuel island, located near the old salt shed, which will also be removed. This project will also be started over the summer, so we'll have the contractor meet with the trail contractor to insure that both will be able to work collaboratively in the same general area. Parking at DeFazio will not be impacted, but there won't be access between DPW/PSAB and DeFazio while the work is being done. The PPBC Project Manager has been working on FAQ's and the final set will be posted on our website, and shared with groups who use DeFazio.

FIELD SCHEDULING JOINT POLICY

Chairman Matt Toolan is scheduled to attend the Trustees of Memorial Park meeting on Wednesday, June 14th on a Rosemary Recreation Complex project. He will also begin a discussion on the process for both boards to review the current joint policy for scheduling.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

The majority of the summer staff has been hired, completed their paperwork and are ready for training. We are just waiting for a few final hires to complete their paperwork. Recreation Supervisor Allan Sobon and Summer Recreation Supervisor Ben Kerrigan are finalizing the training manuals and the schedule for training.

TAKE A HIKE

The second spring free hike will be at the Eastman Conservation Trail at Newman on Saturday, June 3 at 9 AM.
