

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**August 8, 2008**

*Background notes for Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**STAFF APPRECIATION PARTY**

The Commission's annual thank you party for the summer staff will be held right after the Monday night meeting, about 8 PM. The Commission meeting will therefore start at 6:30 PM, to provide enough time for the agenda.

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**HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR AREAS**

The tennis courts at the High School are expected to be completed sometime in September and will then be ready for use. They are located off of the A gym, running parallel to the houses on Webster Street. The small field area will be rebuilt and seeded, hopefully with an irrigation system. That area will have to remain out of use until the root system is strong enough.

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**RIVERSIDE PARK**

Lance and I have walked Riverside Park and have agreed that the proposed work has been completed by Hanover Company. Lance will be keeping the new trees under observation and care to insure that they continue to grow. The total estimate of the donation of new materials and labor is \$150,000.

The Selectmen will be asked to officially accept the gift. If you have a chance, drive by the park to see all the new improvements. I was particularly pleased with how the new grass came in. It was hydro seeded in the fall, a bit later than what we would have hoped, but it came in strong and we were able to use the park this spring for Rookie Baseball. There was some crabgrass growth, but overall it looks great. Typically we keep a field closed for two growing seasons, but with all the other projects going on, didn't have that option at Riverside...and we lucked out! The new irrigation system extends out further into the park than the original one donated by neighbors, so that is a great asset.

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**TOWN HALL SUMMER HOURS**

Just a reminder...from the Week of July 7<sup>th</sup> through the Week of August 25<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall will have regular business hours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesdays, Town Hall will be open from 8:00 AM through 7:30 PM and on Fridays will be open from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

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**PARK BATHROOM CLEANING**

A few years ago, the Finance Committee approved funding for Park and Recreation to hire a cleaning company for the park bathrooms. It was difficult to find a company that

wanted that type of job, and the one that accepted the work has done a fair job, but clearly not what we would hope to have done. Currently, a bid is out for hiring a cleaning company for Needham High School and bids are due on Tuesday. The park bathrooms have been added to the bid as an alternate in the hopes that the same company can take on the park bathrooms. The DPW Parks Division has had responsibility for the bathrooms at Memorial Park, so we've included those units in the alternate. If this all works out, we'll have a new company in place October 1<sup>st</sup>. Their primary work will be done between mid-April and mid-October, with the exception of Claxton.

I attended the pre-bid meeting of potential contractors and joined them on the walk of the new High School. We couldn't get into areas still under construction, but I got to see areas that I hadn't seen, yet – and got some great views of Memorial Park at the same time.

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### **CLAXTON BATHROOMS**

There hasn't been final resolution on completing the bathrooms at Claxton. We continue to have a portable unit at the field until the work is done. Lance is having some new lights installed in the work area, as the new windows have reduced the amount of natural light.

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### **TOUR OF PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES**

The newest member of the Board of Selectmen, Denise Garlick, asked to meet with department managers individually at the beginning of the summer to learn more about the issues related to each department. I asked if we could hold our meeting as part of a tour of our summer programs and visits to several parks and other sites, and Denise agreed this would be a great idea. It is finally scheduled for Monday morning. I'll bring her to each of the program sites, the pool, some of the trails and other open space areas under discussion, including the top of the landfill and the Nike Site. I'll also show her the progress at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park, and indicate the area of the proposed middle school at DeFazio. Assistant to the Town Manager Sandy Cincotta will be joining us for the tour, as she hears about many of these places but rarely gets to see them in person.

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### **GREENDALE AVENUE**

Two of the Greendale Avenue neighbors that have property backing up to Park and Recreation land have requested a meeting with the Chairman and me to talk about long-term goals. This neighborhood has worked with us in the past and done some trail work with an Eagle Scout. They were also very helpful during the discussions about moving the fill from the High School to the former gravel pit and are pleased with the new contour of the land. We'll keep you update on their hopes for the property.

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