

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**November 17, 2017**

*Background notes for Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

---

**NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS**

At the prior meeting, the schedule for the November and December meetings was changed to Monday, November 20; Monday, December 4; and Monday, December 18. All meetings are planned to start at 7 PM, at this time.

---

**ROSEMARY SEDIMENT REMOVAL**

The Conservation Commission closed the hearing on this project after 3 sessions. They are currently drafting the Order of Conditions to be reviewed and possibly adopted at their next meeting. The Order of Conditions will include requirements for how and when the project could be done. The appeal period, to DEP, would then begin.

---

**RESERVOIR ACCESSIBLE TRAIL**

The first two sets of boardwalk are installed, though still need to have the curbing added to the edges. The modular units went in quickly and are solid. The next delivery was expected to be on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, with the two fishing docks and the bridge, but there has been a one week delay. Except for the section leading out to the DPW parking area, the path is usable now – and people are out walking on it daily.

---

**NHS BONFIRE EVENT**

The School Council at Needham High School has worked hard to coordinate with school administration, Fire, Police and DPW to arrange for the first – and possibly annual – bonfire event to celebrate the upcoming Needham/Wellesley football game. It will be in the High School parking lot on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM and is open to the public. The students will then have a homecoming event in the school immediately following the bonfire event.

---

**BOOSTER CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALES**

The Booster Club, in collaboration with the Village Club, is setting up the annual Christmas tree sale event at Claxton, in the quarry area. The operation will remain open until just before Christmas, and clean-up will be done right after the holiday.

---

**MEMORIAL PARK BUILDING**

The Trustees of Memorial Park and the Permanent Public Building Committee are hosting a public/neighborhood meeting on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the PSAB Charles River Room to share the design concepts for the new field house. It is anticipated that this project will come to the May Annual Town Meeting for construction funding.

---

---

### **FALL FIELDS**

The organized use of the athletic fields for the fall is just about complete. Needham High School had several teams in post-season play through this past weekend, and now has the football teams practicing for their final games of the season vs. Wellesley. The Police Department is practicing with the NHS girls at DeFazio for the Powder Puff game. All youth programs have finished or will be finished this weekend. Parks and Forestry has put a lot of work into diamonds and multi-purpose fields to prepare them for the spring season. Tasks include edging the diamonds, and overseeding grass fields. There has been some damage to McLeod from use by non-permitted adult groups using the outfield for Ultimate Frisbee (not the group that gets a permit in the summer).

---

### **TRASH AT PARKS**

In October, the RTS Division of DPW started doing early morning trash collections on Saturdays at DeFazio, Claxton, Greene's, Cricket and Memorial. They are also monitoring Perry Park. The extra collection has helped keep all barrels available for use throughout the weekend, and alleviated some of the overflow issues. There is still trash at parks, but this extra collection has reduced some of the prior concerns.

---

### **AQUEDUCT TRAILS**

Babson and Olin Colleges are installing MWRA trail markers along the Aqueduct Trail section on their properties. I've been given markers to have installed along the section in Needham Heights, from the Eliot School to Echo Bridge. MWRA will install two interpretive signs that provide information on the Sudbury Aqueduct. One will be placed at Olin College, and the second will be near the Eliot School, so both will have not only public visibility, but be part of any educational projects at either school. The next two projects are to create a simple map, and to get some park benches along the two routes.

---

### **RAIL TRAIL**

There are several projects under discussion for the Rail Trail, so the Advisory Committee will meet in January to start reviewing the various options. The meeting will be held after the new Conservation Director starts, as some of the possible project options might be challenging to do because of interactions with wetlands or vernal pools.

---

### **DeFAZIO PARKING LOT**

The jersey barriers will be dewatered and stored for the winter, leaving the lot open for plowing, parking for those using the track or tot-lot on warmer days, and possible use as the auxiliary snow dump. DPW is working on logistics for how/where on the site the units will be stored. The exact date of moving them into storage hasn't been chosen, but it could be as early as November 24<sup>th</sup>. The adjacent fuel island project is close to finish, and will begin active use in the next few weeks. The addition of parking lot lights on the new poles is under review.

---

### **ROSEMARY TRAIL**

The Conservation Department still has funds from Community Preservation for another trail project with the Student Conservation Association. Our two departments work jointly on trail projects, and we are going to put in an application for a two week project, with a major portion of the time spent on rebuilding the bridge along the Rosemary trail. If approved, this would be a July/August project, after Rosemary Recreation Complex construction is complete. If we also get approved for funding to demolish the old buildings, which can be done after the trail work, this would be a great step forward on improvements on the camp property side of the lake!

---

### **CONSERVATION DIRECTOR**

The new Conservation Director will be starting during the last week in November. The former Director, who officially left in late August, has been helping on some projects in the interim and will help with the training for the transition.

---