

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 18, 2018

*Background notes for Monday, May 21, 2018
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MAY MEETING DATES

The second May meeting is on Monday, May 21st at PSAB in the Charles River Room, changed from the original date due to the Memorial Day holiday.

COFFEE AT CENTER AT THE HEIGHTS

On May 9th, I visited the Center at the Heights for their monthly chat with a Needham organization. There were about 15 people present, and we had a great time talking about Rosemary Recreation Complex, trails, and existing programs and potential new programs. We will sponsor a tour/walk with CATH in July.

NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PROJECT

I worked with a group of students who want to encourage outdoor play for Needham's children. The presentation on May 16th was done by Will Copper, Max Johnston, Jack Malpiede, Dan McEvoy, and Amadeo Rodriguez., which I attended, along with Superintendent Gutekanst and Principal Sicotte. The students posted some information on the "Needham, MA" Facebook page and are working on getting times to present to some of the PTC groups. If they are available, they will come to the Commission meeting on May 21st and present their information.

DeFAZIO PARKING LOT

The additional barriers were delivered, put on place on May 15th, and filled with water for stability on May 17th. Additional signage was added, and DPW is trying to create a no parking zone to allow for fire trucks and other large vehicles to have enough turn-around space at the fuel island.

DONATION FROM NEEDHAM BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Needham Baseball and Softball has donated quick release bases to the Asa Small diamond at DeFazio. The Selectmen will formally accept the donation.

MEMORIAL DAY SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Next weekend is the 42nd annual event, which has certainly grown since the early days! The tournament fee has been paid, in advance of the tournament.

PARK RESTROOMS

There were two bids for cleaning the park restrooms, and we are in the process of reviewing the information and contacting references for the apparent low-bid. I'm also working with building maintenance to get timed locks placed on the restrooms at

Carleton Pavilion, Claxton and Mills, so they can be locked after evening park uses and re-opened in the mornings.

MEMORIAL PARK BUILDING

With Town Meeting's approval for construction funds, efforts are underway to get the building cleared out. The groups who currently use the building for storage and looking at options for temporary storage, primarily off-site. One option is to provide some space at the Ridge Hill house, which may not be optimal as a Town staff member would need to provide access. Needham Baseball and Softball is also considering a pod, and may approach the Commission to see if it could be placed in the Dwight parking lot for the interim.

NEEDHAM ACCESSIBLE RESERVOIR TRAIL

I'm researching the possibility of having a natural/organic product sprayed throughout the summer along the Needham Accessible Reservoir Trail, to try and reduce exposure to ticks. The product is being reviewed by the Conservation and Health departments, and with the Health Department, we'll look to see if there are grants possible to pay for the treatments. To be effective, it needs to be done every two weeks. This product can also help reduce exposure to mosquitoes.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Commission's three-year appointment to the Community Preservation Committee expires at the end of June, so is ready for re-appointment of Mr. Gerstel, or new appointment of a member of the Commission. It will be on a June agenda.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Representatives of the medical field from Daxing, China visited Needham on May 15th and 16th. Daxing is a sister-city to Needham, and has welcomed representatives from Needham over the past few years, including two Selectmen, the Town Manager, Fire Chief, Director of Public Health and Human Services, as well as many from Needham Public Schools. I attended a welcome reception for them earlier in the week, and they were impressed with photos of many of the Town's buildings and facilities, including Rosemary Recreation Complex.

GREENDALE TRAIL EASEMENT

The easement for re-connecting the Greendale Greenway Trail is attached to this report. The request to accept the easement will go to the Selectboard for approval at an upcoming meeting. Some of the first tenants are expected to move into Modera Needham in the early summer, as the final stages of construction are finished in other areas of the site.
