

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 2, 2018

*Background notes for Monday, November 5, 2018
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATES

Materials from cancelled 10/22 meeting included in this packet.

Monday, November 5 (*replacing the conflicted date of 11/12/18*)

Monday, November 26 (*I will not be available for this meeting*)

Monday, December 10 (*includes Field Scheduling Summit*)

If a second meeting is held in December, it would need to be at a new date, as the 4th Monday is December 24th.

Note – the new meeting location is the Rosemary Recreation Complex. When available, the Commission can meet in the multi-purpose room.

FIELD SCHEDULING SUMMIT

To assist with communication on the synthetic turf carpet replacement project, the Field Scheduling Summit will be held on Monday, December 10th. I've sent a "save the date" to the leagues, and also included any special event groups that could be impacted by the summer schedule at DeFazio or Memorial.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Eagle Scout candidate Justin Ochalla has completed his Eagle Scout project at Rosemary Recreation Complex. He and his team built two outdoor racks for our boats at the lake. He will be attending your meeting to give you an overview of his project.

LACROSSE WALL

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I met with representatives of High School and Boys Lacrosse on October 31st to look at possible locations for a practice wall that would be two sided. The safest area appears to be a grassy area off of the synthetic turf and near the Golf Course hill, so we'll get parcel information to see if there are any restrictions. The representatives are looking into some product options, and DPW will provide them with drawings of the field so they can work on concept drawings. The location is likely within the permitting jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, so I will look into that, as well as it will likely need a Building Permit. One of the discussions was about placing synthetic turf in the areas on either side of the wall which could be handled through reuse of the carpet at DeFazio when that is removed.

COMMISSION GOALS

The approved goals and roles of the Commission are attached to this report.

BENCH AT GREENE'S FIELD

The Community Revitalization Committee worked with the family of the late Brenda Stark, a local business owner who died suddenly this past year, to raise funds for a memorial bench. The committee typically works through the Town Manager's office for benches on the Common, so inadvertently skipped the step of asking the Park and Recreation Commission's permission to have the bench located at Greene's Field. I'm working on getting the information needed for the Commission to retroactively approve the bench, which was already put in place by DPW, and insuring that other Town departments remember to forward requests for Park and Recreation property to the Commission for approval at the start of the discussions.

NEEDHAM'S GO GREEN EXPO

I'll be assisting at the Go Green Expo on Saturday, November 10th at Town Hall from 10 AM – 4 PM. A table has been set up for trails, and I've worked with the committee on the information and will help answer questions. There will be opportunities for people to test drive an electric vehicle, ride on an electric bike, try quiet electric mowers and leaf blowers, learn about sustainable gardening, and many more options.

SUDBURY AQUEDUCT TRAIL

Recreation Supervisor Angela O'Connor will attend a meeting on the department's behalf with other communities to all give updates on use of the local aqueducts for pedestrian paths. We've walked both sections of the trail, so she is aware of the highlights and the challenges. Babson/Olin have put up markers on the western section, including signs that move pedestrians around their athletic fields. The trail crosses Great Plain Avenue, and there is still a discussion underway on how/where a crosswalk could be placed to assist with crossing. On the eastern section, I have the markers but they have not been put up. Because of Route 128, we need to move people down from St. Mary Street to Central Avenue, move under the bridge, and then go up Reservoir Street (without sidewalks) to rejoin the Aqueduct trail. When the trail crosses Hunnewell Street in Wellesley from the Eliot School, there isn't a crosswalk, but that needs to be added by Wellesley, if it meets safety criteria. Any new information will be shared with the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

DeFAZIO PARKING LOT

The DPW has back-bladed the DeFazio parking lot periodically through the fall, but the rainy season made it difficult to avoid potholes. They are reviewing near-term and long-term maintenance options.

DWIGHT ROAD

The access to Dwight Field and parking lot is in the process of being repaved through a DPW contract.
