

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 24, 2009

*Background notes for Monday, April 27th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MEETING LOCATION

The Commission meeting has been moved to Pollard at an earlier time so that all board members may attend the 7:30 PM League of Women Voters' Warrant meeting. The meeting room is called the "Inner Space" meeting room. Come into the Media Center, located just off the main lobby. After passing the staff desk, the door to the meeting room is on your left. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM and end before 7:30 PM. Commissioner Jacob will have to leave the meeting at 7 PM to attend the Moderator's meeting with new Town Meeting members.

CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome back, Brian, to the Park and Recreation Commission. Welcome to the Commission, Tom.

FIRST MAY MEETING DATE

The first meeting in May (May 11th) conflicts with Town Meeting. There are also events related to the Melick Foundation held prior to this Town Meeting, so it is difficult to schedule a Park and Recreation meeting prior to Town Meeting. Choosing a new meeting date is on the meeting agenda.

OPEN MEETING LAW

It is typical when a new member joins the board for the whole Commission to review the Open Meeting Law and other relevant state law. I have included information related to Mass General Law in the meeting packet. In June, the Town hopes to schedule a session with a representative of the State Ethics Commission that will include ethics laws, open meeting law, and public records. Members of all boards will be invited.

NEEDHAM YOUTH CENTER

The Park and Recreation Commission appoints one member of the Needham Youth Center Board. The most recent representative Sanford Epstein has resigned from the Board, and Chairman Trish Lincoln has a volunteer who is willing to serve as the Park and Recreation representative – Toni Carboni. Ms. Lincoln will send some background information on Ms. Carboni, and I will invite Ms. Carboni to an upcoming Commission meeting.

TRACK CLUB

The Needham Track Club is getting excited to start its season in June at the new track. This first summer will be a learning process for everyone, particularly as some areas of DeFazio will still be under construction. Typically, their materials have been stored in the Memorial Park building, but since we won't have the permanent storage building on site in June, the Track Club will be requesting to locate a temporary storage container in the parking lot of DeFazio. They are currently investigating rental agreements, so a formal request will come at a future meeting.

TEMPORARY RESTROOMS

I have put this on the agenda in relation to the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament. Many years ago, a group of Cricket neighbors came before the Commission with concerns about events being held at Cricket. Most of their issues were related to High School events, but the Soccer Club took note of the concerns and worked hard to insure that the Memorial Day weekend tournament was respectful of the neighbors. At that time, the small group of neighbors asked that no temporary restrooms be used on the site, so the Commission agreed and for the tournament we've had a complicated procedure for allowing use of the bathrooms in the building, but as most of our summer supplies are stored in the building, it has not been an easy venture, and despite their best efforts to "police" the building, there has been vandalism. I would like to request a trial use of a portable bathroom at this year's tournament. Temporary restrooms are used at all other sites for the tournament.

SAVE THE DATES

Town Meeting: May 4, 6, 11, 13, and possibly 18

Geocaching Class: Saturday, May 2 at DPW at 9 AM

Fishing Derby: Saturday, May 9 at Reservoir from 9 AM to Noon

Stocking the Fish: Wednesday, May 6 at 11 AM at the Reservoir

Touch the Trucks: Saturday, May 16 at DeFazio from 10 AM to Noon

Spring Into Action – P&R Walk: Wednesday, May 13 at Town Forest at 3 PM

Spring Into Action – Leader Walk: Thursday, May 14 from Town Hall at 5:30 PM

Needham High Dedication: Sunday, May 31 at 2 PM

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS

I have been asked to be on the interview panel for the NHS Athletic Director position. We have a committee meeting on May 4, and then will spend all day on May 6 and 7 doing the interviews.

SUMMER PREPARATION

The draining of Rosemary Lake began last week. The drain-down is done slowly to avoid flooding any areas downstream. The snowy winter and spring rains have made the water table high, so it will take awhile to come down. Once it is empty, DPW staff will do the annual cleaning and painting, and we will also have the drain covered replaced to meet the new federal guidelines.

I am also working with Kristen Phelps from Conservation Commission and Bob Lewis from DPW Water/Sewer on a possible project that will help with drainage coming down the hill into the Rosemary parking lot. This could also be a beautification project at the entrance from Rosemary Street, plus repair a problem at the mouth of the trail that heads from the parking lot over to the camp property. This is a heavily used path for many using it as a short cut over to the Nehoiden Street area.

Nicole and Karen sent a mailing to last year's season pool pass holders with information on this summer and two free one-time use guest passes for the pool. There have been many positive comments from all that received the free passes.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

The Town is signing a contract with Peak Software's *Sportsman SQL* to provide a new registration program for our department to use. We are very excited about the on-line registration component that will now be available to Needham residents. We will start registration using the on-line option on Friday, May 22nd and then start doing mail-in registration on Tuesday, May 26th. Our hope is to encourage as many people to use the on-line option as possible, as it will speed up the registration process and allow us to concentrate on other important tasks. We expect to have the initial set-up done by the time the brochure is mailed to Needham residents in a few weeks, so that they can purchase early-bird pool passes and tennis badges on-line. (*We still need to send them their badges, but they can save a trip to the office!!*) We will all have some work to do to get everything set to go on-line, but we are very excited to finally have this option and will put in the time that it will take!

BICYCLE RACKS

Rep. Harkins sent me information on a state reimbursement grant that is available for Needham to purchase permanent bicycle racks. The Commissioners of Trust Funds have given me approval to use the Park and Recreation Trust Fund to make the initial purchase, and then the reimbursement will be deposited back into the Trust Fund. I will work on a plan for locations and implementation over the next few weeks.
