

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**July 20, 2012**

*Background notes for Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**RAIL TRAIL CONCEPT**

The MBTA board has given authorization to provide leases to the Town of Needham, as well as Dover, Medfield and Newton for about 9 miles of track that falls in the four communities. If each community chooses, it can officially apply for a lease in order to convert the rail beds into rail trails. At this time, Needham is only looking at the 2 mile section from Needham Junction to the Charles River and border of Dover. The other small Needham section that could connect to Newton is still under study for other transportation needs, so there is no official discussion of converting that to a rail trail at this time. The next step for the volunteer group is a feasibility study and the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing, most likely in the fall. The non-profit will likely seek some funding from the Community Preservation Committee for the study, as the information will help determine if it's a viable project for Needham, as well as provide information to assist them with fundraising.

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**SUMMER**

It's hard to believe the summer season is half over at Park and Recreation! The programs are just finishing up Week 4 out of 8. Their overall attention to safety and their emphasis on creativity have been outstanding. The Pool is finishing up Week 5 and most of those days have been hot and busy. The Pool was featured on Channel 5 on the day that reached 100 degrees, with live broadcasts by meteorologist David Brown. He is a former lifeguard, so was quite nostalgic about being amongst so many lifeguards. The Pool is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer, with a fun event at tonight's Friday Fun Night.

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**PROJECT VAN**

Special thanks to this Youth Services program. Under Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen, they did a clean-up project at Claxton and really helped beautify the park. Under Assistant Director Karen Peirce's supervision, they spent hours doing trail work on the Rosemary Trail at the camp property, and were awarded with a little time out on the canoes on Rosemary Lake.

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**YMCA**

The Charles River YMCA is currently located in two small buildings in Needham, one that they own and the second that they rent. They are hoping to build one single building to meet their needs in Needham. Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and I toured two facilities with their representatives last week, one in Woburn and one in Marblehead.

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### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

The CPC is planning a summit with representatives of Town boards later this summer to get updates on projects that may come before the CPC as applicants for funding. It is anticipated that there will be a greater number of applications now that the legislation has been amended to allow for capital projects on land already owned by the Town.

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### **NEWMAN PLAYGROUND**

The parents continue to finalize their plans for the new play grounds and continue to fundraise. As they are using a more expensive synthetic surface, the PPBC has worked on decreasing the available excavated areas. There will be room for future growth and expansion.

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### **GREENE'S FIELD PLAYGROUND**

Fundraising concepts are being developed and will start in the fall. The GFWC Women's Club has already raised more than \$8,000 at their garden tour in June. There are discussions underway to partially fund the project through the Town, so it will need to be bid.

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### **INTERN**

The Town has an intern for the summer. Cameron is a senior at Marion High School and interested in a career in politics. He started last week, and spent a morning with Park and Recreation. Cassandra quickly showed him the frenzy of the office in the summer, as he assisted her with registrations. He then accompanied me on the annual inspection tour of the Needham Golf Club. I made sure he knew that every day didn't include a ride in a golf cart on a beautiful day. He'll spend two more mornings with Park and Recreation in early August.

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