

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 21, 2013

*Background notes for Monday, June 24th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

HAROLD J. A. STREET, III TRUST

Please remember to bring ideas for projects that could be funded by the \$22,000 donated to the Park and Recreation Commission from the will of Mr. Street.

MINUTES

The June 10th minutes were not transcribed in time for the meeting due to the summer preparation schedule, so will be placed on the July 8th meeting agenda.

SUMMER PREPARATION

Staff training is just about complete for the programs and the pool. Trainings have been held for all of the summer staff, the supervisors, the program directors, the pool maintenance staff, the pool booth staff, individual program staff, and program and pool volunteers. CPR/First Aid sessions have also been held. Much of the training revolves around safety issues – for participants and for staff. Next week will be the final set of trainings with all the program staff. On Thursday and Friday, they will do program “sneak peaks” for families at Cricket, so children can sample a variety of activities that are typical at each program. Programs and swim lessons are scheduled to start on July 1st – a late start due to the late finish to the school year.

Ten inches of rain in two weeks has been overwhelming to the pool. In mid-May, we had drought conditions in the area, with high risk of fire. Even the Quabbin Reservoir was considering placing water bans. All of that lack of ground water has been reversed. We were inspected by the Health Department on Thursday and except for the pool water sample test and some vacuuming that is still needed, everything passed. Our pool water sample was taken on Tuesday after two days of heavy rain. One of the three required tests takes 72 hours of incubation and review before results are available. If we didn't pass the three bacteria tests on Friday, we would have to remain closed. A new water sample would go to the lab on Monday, June 24th with results back on Thursday, June 27th. We passed all the tests required for public swimming pools. The Health Department requires Rosemary Pool to do an extra test that isn't required for other pools, but is required for swimming ponds/lakes. Our results came in under what is required to keep a pond/lake open, but as this is written, the Health Department is trying to decide what standard to use in order to give us our permit.

In the midst of all of this, we are working on completing the end of the financial fiscal year on June 30th, revamp the Town's website, and train for a new financial software package that all departments will start using on July 1st. It's BUSY!!

DOG PARK

As seen in this week's Needham Times, a formal plan is moving forward for the establishment of a dog park at the Nike Site. A group of department managers will be meeting with the dog park community committee in mid July on details related to the establishment. The very active group is now working on fundraising. Earlier this spring, I was sent some information from a foundation that helps create dog parks, so the Town Manager's office has helped set up a meeting with the community committee and the Foundation to check on eligibility.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

At their meeting this week, the CPC voted to name Janet Carter Bernardo as the new Chairman and Lita Young as the Vice Chairman. Mark Gluesing served as Chairman for two years, and guided the committee through the transition with the change in legislation.

AQUEDUCT TRAIL AND EVENT

I'll be attending a meeting in mid July with other communities along the Sudbury Aqueduct to discuss the trail project with the MWRA. Framingham has opened their section, and hopefully others will over the next year, including Needham. As a reminder, Needham has two sections: one comes through Babson and Olin College. The second section enters back into Needham from Wellesley, past the Eliot School and over Echo Bridge into Newton.

Dunn & Gaherin's is hosting a "Feeding the Falls" event on Sunday, June 23rd at the Aqueduct on the Needham/Newton line, in the section that goes through Hemlock Gorge. They have secured all necessary permits from DCR & MWRA and have also hired a police detail from Needham.

CAMP PROPERTY ENCROACHMENTS

There is no updated information related to Armen Way. The Nehoiden parcel is scheduling removal of the shed located on the Camp Property and the section of asphalt immediately next to the shed. The Conservation Director is working with the owner on plantings that are appropriate adjacent to wetlands.

REVISED WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Town's website has been going a revision that has gone live at 5 PM on Friday, June 21st. Most of Park and Recreation's information was updated for the revision – but we'll need to do some more after we get through the pre-season crunch in the office.

IT has also given me our access to Facebook this week. For right now, we'll continue posting on the Town Manager's site, until after the pre-season, when we can set the Park and Recreation page up correctly. The Town Manager has asked us to continue to post our department's information on her page, as she feels that it has helped make her page more vibrant, so we'll do double postings of our major information. Once the Facebook page is coordinated, we'll set up the department's Twitter account as well as a Pinterest account.