

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 10, 2014

*Background notes for Monday, January 13th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MEETING TIME

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting will begin at 6:30 PM, so that the Commission can work on agenda items prior to the start of the Field Scheduling Summit at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at PSAB in the Charles River Room.

The Commission will discuss the schedule for the January 27th meeting on Monday night. The Facilities Study has begun, and there is a meeting for all boards/departments to kick-off the study. This meeting is on January 27th from 5:30-7:30 PM. It would be beneficial to the project to have the majority of the Commission at that meeting, and then start the Commission meeting late, possibly in a meeting space at Town Hall.

POOL STUDY REVIEW

The final version of the pool's feasibility study will be submitted by Weston & Sampson this month. It will be full of a lot of good information to help the Commission evaluate the variety of options. For this meeting, my suggestion is that the Commission begins to decide the format for the review, so that the goal of having a final recommendation in May can be met. As a possible format, I have put together a list of questions that could be a starting point for the review. This list would lead to some decisions, and then additional questions would need to be developed to continue to flesh out the information on the remaining options. The draft set of questions are not meant to be answered prior to the full review of the study – nor are they meant to be the only questions – they are just a starting point.

FIELD SCHEDULING SUMMIT

The annual summit will be held at 7:30 PM. Most of the organizations have already been talking and working out conflicts, so most of the meeting will be updating the groups on maintenance and projects. Since the Commission and the Board of Health are in discussions about concussion awareness and prevention, Commissioner Dave DiCicco has offered to share some of his research with Needham groups.

CONCUSSIONS

At their December meeting, the Board of Health discussed the issue of concussions and youth sports with Commissioner Dave DiCicco and me. The consensus at the meeting was that a survey would be developed and sent to all youth sports organizations, not just the ones that use the athletic fields. The Health Department has done an initial draft and it will be discussed at the meeting. I will send back changes and we'll finalize and send it out to the various youth sports organizations.

IPM PLAN UPDATE

The Town staff members who serve on the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) committee have drafted an update to the Town's IPM Plan. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health have recently reviewed the update and voted their support. The Park and Recreation Commission is being asked to review, and if acceptable, also vote their support.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION DIRECTOR

Monday will be the first day of work for the Town's new Conservation Director Matt Varrell. I met with him earlier this week, and he's excited to start working on our joint projects. He serves on a trails committee in his town, so he is very excited to be able to work on projects in Needham.
