

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**March 20, 2015**

*Background notes for Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE VOTE ON PROPOSALS**

At their March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CPC voted to recommend all proposals under review be moved forward to Town Meeting for final approval for the funds. At the Commission's request, the amount recommended for the pool design was \$450,000, which is for the initial design phase. A subsequent request would be made for the remaining design funds at the May 2016 Town Meeting and construction funds at the May 2017 Town Meeting.

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**DeFAZIO PARKING LOT**

The DPW continues to remove snow from the DeFazio parking lot, and to spread some of it to assist with melting. This lot is the secondary snow dump, when the RTS cannot take additional snow.

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**SNOW ON ATHLETIC FIELDS**

The only athletic fields/facilities that have been plowed are the track and the two synthetic turf fields at DeFazio. All other fields and facilities are melting naturally. There was no damage done to the synthetic turf fields during plowing. The track, plowed by staff, had some minor damage that is on the corner and will not interfere with actual use while we wait to have it repaired.

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen is working on the possibility of a new method for the Memorial Park synthetic turf fields. The Trustees have chosen not to allow plowing. An option of adding the crumb rubber infill on top of the snow is being investigated. As with black sand used at Fenway Park, it would attract the sun and the infill would end up on the field and be groomed into the surface. This method is being reviewed with the Trustees to see if it might be supported. Needham High School Athletics raised funds for the plowing, so it is hoped they would be able to purchase the additional crumb rubber infill.

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**BLUE TREE**

The initial stages of removing the Blue Tree on the Town Common have begun, and will continue into next week, weather permitting. The trunk will be taken down as intact as possible, depending on the interior conditions, and will be put aside while it is determined whether there should be some commemorative items created out of the wood. It is hoped that the new tree, which was already selected and prepared earlier in the winter, will be able to travel to Needham and be installed prior to Arbor Day, which is Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. A celebration will be planned.

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