

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 20, 2015

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

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commission has moved its meeting to Town Hall in the Selectmen's Chambers, starting at 6:30 PM on 8/24/15. After 7:30 PM, they will join the PPBC meeting, to jointly meet with pool designer BH+A.

Due to the holiday, the September 14th meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 8th. The meeting will be held at Town Hall.

END OF SUMMER

The final special event of the summer will be Friday Fun Night at the Pool on Friday, August 21 at 6 PM. The activities will centered around the theme of "Back to School Splash."

It feels as if we were just giving updates on the summer preseason tasks, but a successful summer is coming to an end. The programs officially ended on Thursday, August 20th with staff returning on Friday to clean-up their sites. Swim lessons conclude on Friday, August 21st, and the pool will close on Friday, August 28th. For the final five days, the pool is open for general swim from 12:30 – 5:30 PM. Clean-up work is scheduled in the mornings, and on Friday, the full staff stays a few hours to help do all the final projects. The Assistant Director Robyn Fink has done a great job supervising the staff at the pool and programs, guiding them all to be successful working teams. Special thanks to Acting Recreation Supervisor Maura Tully, Summer Recreation Supervisor Brian O'Keefe, Pool Supervisor Brendan Ennis, Assistant Pool Supervisor Paul Hatini and Assistant Pool Supervisor Jared Cotton. We all extend our appreciation to Administrative Specialist Kristen Wright who kept the operation working in the office!

Robyn, Kristen and Maura worked on increasing publicity and marketing this summer. Needham Hometown Weekly had stories and photos most weeks in their paper, and the Needham Times and Needham Channel did periodic stories. Patch.com took information from our Notify Me lists and Facebook page and posted them on their site. Last August, we had about 5 Facebook "friends" and we are now just about at 500 and will continue to work on growing that number.

RAIL TRAIL UPDATE

The bids were opened last week, with seven companies submitting bids. They all came in above the funding amount, so the project is being re-bid with a smaller scope with two bid alternates. The project is still expected to start in September and be completed before winter.

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There are two projects for the rail trail that are outside the scope of the construction project. An Eagle Scout has approached me about his project including the installation of kiosks and marker signs along the trail. I am in preliminary discussions with the Exchange Club to help formalize the path from High Rock Street through the Town Forest to reach the rail trail, as part of the National Day of Service.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

An application from the Housing Authority was submitted earlier in August for a fall review by the CPC. The proposal will be reviewed for possible submission in the Fall Special Town Meeting.

OUT OF THE OFFICE

I will be out of the office September 14-21, attending the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference with a few vacation days included after the conference.
