

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 1, 2015

*Background notes for Monday, October 5th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Due to the holiday, the October 12th meeting will now be held on Monday, October 5th at 7:00 PM at *Town Hall-Selectmen's Chambers*.

The Commission is trying to coordinate a meeting with the PPBC in October, so an additional special meeting may be added to the October calendar, prior to the next scheduled meeting on October 26th.

The Commission would also like to tour a few municipal pools. Options will be discussed at the meeting.

CHAMBERS COVE

Chairman Dave DiCicco will provide an update on the fundraising effort for a stone and bench to be placed to honor Coach John Chambers at Rosemary Lake. Once more information is available, it will be reviewed with Conservation Commission to determine if a permit is needed for installation near the lake.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC has one proposal under review for November's Special Town Meeting. They will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:30 PM at Town Hall-Selectmen's Chambers to get public input on the proposal to provide funding to Needham Housing Authority for emergencies repairs before winter at Seabeds Way housing for elderly and disabled.

MA Community Preservation is celebrating its 15th year since enacted by the legislature. The Community Preservation Coalition is holding an event at the State House on Tuesday, October 6 at 10 AM, with Governor Baker and Speaker Rosenberg will attend and speak. I will attend the celebration – CPA funds have been a great benefit to Needham on a variety of completed projects, and many in the near future!

NEWMAN FIELDS

The heavy rain on Wednesday was a true test of the recently installed sod and drainage system at Newman's multi-purpose field. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen went down to check on it as the heaviest rain came to an end. The drainage system was working as designed. The root system of the sod is already securing itself to the sub-base, and there were no standing puddles of water. The sod was soft but drying quickly, so it would have been usable that afternoon. The diamonds aren't graded, yet, but we anticipate the same success once they are complete.

EVERSOURCE

The Board of Selectmen will host a public hearing on Monday, October 5th with representatives from Eversource. It will be at 7 PM in Powers Hall at Town Hall. The utility company still plans to remove trees within the transmission line easement to prevent them growing tall enough to interfere with electrical services. Rep. Denise Garlick has worked with residents and the Town on this issue for two years and was instrumental in getting legislation passed regarding utility company communication with residents prior to major projects.

POLICE CHIEF

The Board of Selectmen and Town Manager have appointed Lt. John Schlittler to be the new Chief of Police at the retirement of Chief Phil Droney. I will be meeting with the new chief next week to discuss how our departments continue to work cooperatively together under his leadership.
