

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 18, 2016

*Background notes for Monday, November 28th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

NOTES

These notes were written through Friday, November 18th, as I am on vacation from November 21-25th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Manager Operating Budget Review with Park and Recreation Department

Monday, November 28th at 5:15 PM at Town Hall – *when available, Chairman and Vice Chairman attend*

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Monday, November 28th at 7 PM at PSAB – Charles River Room

PPBC Meeting – Rosemary Recreation Complex

Monday, November 28th *tentatively* at 8:30 PM – Community Room/Library

Planning Board Public Hearing – Rosemary Recreation Complex

Tuesday, December 6 at 7 PM at PSAB – Charles River Room

Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 7 at 7 PM at PSAB – Charles River Room

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Monday, December 12th at 7 PM at PSAB – Charles River Room

Community Preservation Committee

Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 PM at Town Hall – Highland Room

CPC APPLICATIONS

There are several applications that are being submitted for December 1st that are on property under Park and Recreation's jurisdiction: (a) Rosemary Recreation Complex; (b) Rosemary Lake Sediment Removal – submitted by DPW Engineering; (c) Athletic Field Improvements at Cricket Field – submitted by DPW Parks and Forestry; and a placeholder request (d) purchase of open space, in the event any parcel might become available that would be a desired addition to Park and Recreation property. These will be on the agenda for a formal vote of support prior to being submitted to the CPC. Two other projects of interest are the construction funds for the Reservoir All-Persons Trail and funds for a trail at the new "Hillside" school site, to be done with the Student Conservation Association prior to school construction. The Board of Selectmen will vote their support for these projects on parcels under their jurisdiction, and the School

Committee has already voted to support the trail at the new school site, partially located on their property in Needham, and land in Wellesley under agreement with the Selectmen.

NEW SCHOOL SITE

I've attended two recent meetings on the outdoor plans for the new elementary school on Central Avenue. The area for physical education green space is smaller than what they have available, today, and it is partially located within the 25 foot wetlands zone, and partially in Wellesley. Some discussions are underway about the type of green space to build on the heavily used space for physical education and recess, including the possibility of a synthetic turf product that does not use any form of infill.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC FORUM

A public forum was held on Wednesday, November 16th with approximately 30 attending the meeting. Information was presented to the participants and input was given by just about all attendees on Open Space, Recreation Facilities, Stewardship of Needham's Natural Resources, and Protect Water Resources. When signing in for the meeting, people were asked to put a "dot" on a chart explaining why they attended, and also to mark a location on the map that was important to each one of them. That information will be provided to the Commission.

EVERSOURCE

The Town Manager is working with Eversource on a community agreement that would outline what Eversource would do if approval is given to do the underground set of lines, as discussed with the Commission in the past. As part of the project would be seeking an easement across the former gravel pit, the Town Manager will come to the December 12th meeting to discuss what the Commission would like to be included in the agreement.

ASA SMALL DIAMOND

Earlier this year, Needham Baseball and Softball discussed the possibility of partnering with the Town on improvements to the Asa Small diamond. One of the improvements they would like to add would be athletic field lights. In early December, Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen has scheduled a meeting with MUSCO Lighting to provide some input on what would be needed, with a cost estimate for Needham Baseball and Softball.

FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Winter Street Architects has begun working on the feasibility study for Memorial Park's building. They are doing a thorough review of the building and will be meeting with the Trustees at their upcoming meeting.

Kaestle Boos is continuing their work on Fire Station # 2 and Police/Fire facilities. As noted during Special Town Meeting, there will likely be a need for a temporary location for Fire Station # 2. The Town Manager and Public Facilities-Construction staff will

attend the Commission's first meeting in December to discuss the search for property, both private and public.

MILLS RESTROOM

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen makes weekly phone calls to the contractor regarding the delivery and installation of the restroom building at Mills. As of today, it is tentatively scheduled to come the first week of December.
