

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**February 24, 2017**

*Background notes for Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

The Community Preservation Committee will host a public hearing on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:30 PM in Powers Hall at Town Hall. Each of the six proposals under review for funding will be presented to the public by the proponents, and then they will be able to ask questions and make comments.

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**DeFAZIO PARKING LOT BARRIERS**

The barriers have been purchased and delivered. They will be set up to demarcate the end of each parking row, in a format that allows for traffic to move around the lot, including buses and vans. DPW Director Rick Merson will stop into the Commission meeting to give a quick update on the project, as well as some work at DPW, near DeFazio. He needs to be at a meeting at Town Hall at 7:30 PM, so will only have a brief amount of time to spend with the Commission.

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**OUTDOOR SKATING**

Many people enjoyed the relatively mild winter, except those who love to skate on ponds. The temperatures were often above freezing during the day, so there were not many times there was enough freezing temperature days to get enough ice for skating, and several weeks when it wasn't possible for DPW to take any measurements. Farley Pond actually reached 5.5" on one day, before starting to melt the next! Several residents with backyard rinks also reported having difficulty with having much time with a solid surface. With this week's well above freezing temperatures, ice is just about gone. So, DPW will stop taking measurements for this winter, as they start to prepare to change over to the busy spring season tasks. The benefit of not having lots of snow this winter was that DPW was able to do some extra projects at athletic fields, including a major clean-up at Dwight Field accomplished. The warmer winter temperatures also impacted northern states, with Lake Winnepesaukee experiencing a number of breaks in the ice, and sadly including some deaths.

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**SYNTHETIC TURF**

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I have informally begun discussions on the process of reviewing all the options for replacing the synthetic turf surfaces at DeFazio Park and Memorial Park. We would like to discuss a joint process with both the Commission and the Trustees of Memorial Park, and the groups who use the fields. Some consultants, both who design synthetic turf fields, and those who maintain them after they are built, would likely be available to give information on pros and cons on turf products and in-fill products.

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