

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**October 7, 2010**

*Background notes for Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

---

**OCTOBER MEETINGS**

Due to the Columbus Day holiday, the Commission's first October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12 at the Park and Recreation Office at PSAB (500 Dedham Avenue). I will be at the National Recreation and Park Association conference on October 25<sup>th</sup>, so will not attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> October meeting. Needham Bikes will be making a presentation at the meeting.

---

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Park and Recreation Commission will move into Executive Session under Exception 3, if the majority of members approve a motion by roll call vote.

---

**SENIOR CENTER EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE**

The Senior Center Exploratory Committee presented three options to the Selectmen at their last meeting, ranked in the following order: (1) Needham Heights MBTA parking lot; (2) Greene's Field; and (3) Ridge Hill. The Selectmen anticipate voting at their October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

---

**PROJECTS WITH DPW**

The new grass on McLeod diamond at DeFazio is coming in well. There was an accumulation of thatch on the sodded fields, but the aeration and seeding program is helping to break that up on McLeod and Conroy fields. The sodded areas at Memorial also have a heavy layer of thatch that is mixed with silt, so that will be more difficult to alleviate, but DPW will continue to work on it. There is evidence of germination in the seeded areas. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen is investigating some infield soil options at Memorial, as the High School coach would like to fundraise to purchase a new material. The steel roofs will be coming to DeFazio on Saturday for the Asa Small dugouts. The rain this week slowed down the work on the outfield fence and backstop, though the fence contractor worked on some of the rainy days. The fence contractor is also going to do some small repair work on the parking lot fencing, as some of the poles have been bent by vehicles. The general contractor was not able to do final grading work this week, due to the moisture in the soil, so will be back next week to work on that. The DPW will follow the contractor with final clean-up work at Asa Small before any use of the diamond is allowed. DPW Highway will be asphaltting the main entrance of DeFazio where the double gates are located. It will connect to the existing walking path. The Memorial Park bleachers donated by the Booster Club have been erected by DPW. A contract is in the process of being awarded for the purchase and installation of the

permanent bleachers. The DPW has adjusted their schedule for the storage building at DeFazio to January 2011. The details are still being worked out, to avoid as much damage to the field as possible, and limit the amount of tree work that is needed to move in from Dedham Avenue. Until that is procured, it's not known if any funds will remain for any other type of storage facility. The prep work for the Claxton batting cage is completed, but a building permit must be applied for in order to install the structure. The rain postponed the loam and hydro-seed work at Greene's Field, but its back on the schedule for Tuesday.

---

### **NEEDHAM 300**

The Commission has previously approved a special event request for the Old-Fashioned Field Day at Greene's Field, but now that the plans are more firm, some additional requests have been submitted, as an addendum to the request. The committee is asking to bring in two portable toilets, and add a "bouncy house" activity to the schedule. The marketing subcommittee is requesting to hang a sign on the backstop for a week prior to the event to advertise the activities. Typically, the Commission has only permitted directional signs set up prior to an event, and in some cases, donor signs and activity signs on the day of the event. If approval was granted, I would request that the motion be worded in such a fashion that precedence is not established for advertising events on backstops.

---

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Town Manager has asked a group of department managers to serve on a short-term committee to discuss the possibilities of the Town becoming more involved in social media outlets as a way to provide information to residents. Examples include Facebook and Twitter. It's become more common for park and recreation departments to have their own Facebook pages, and health departments are also using these tools for health education.