

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 25, 2011

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

SPRING FIELD UPDATE

Snow! Rain! Freezing!!

CLAXTON FIELD BATTING CAGE

It is hoped that the final paperwork needed prior to installation of the batting cage will be completed by the end of March, so that the already purchased cage will be up for the High School's spring softball season. The preparation work was done last fall, so once the contractor is given the OK, it should go up quickly.

SPRING FIELD UPDATE – Part Two

The park bathrooms at Claxton are in a heated building, so I've alerted the cleaning company that its time to get them cleaned and opened for use. The other buildings need to wait until the temperatures warm up, so the earliest would be mid-April. The NHS Athletic Director is going to rent some portable restrooms for DeFazio, and has asked if it's possible to put one at Cricket. I've placed that request on the agenda.

The Athletic Director will have a small storage unit placed at Claxton for the spring for the softball equipment. He has also had to place a small unit in the parking lot at DeFazio.

The diamonds were all cleaned last fall. The first snowfall came late, so the annual goal of cleaning all the diamonds in the fall was actually achieved – it's been a goal for many years, but often isn't achieved because of snowfall in October or November. Currently, all of the fields are still too wet for regular maintenance to begin.

The synthetic turf fields have been groomed, and the painting is just about done. A few small depressions have been found, and those areas will be renovated.

As of today, the natural turf fields are still too wet for spring maintenance.

SIGNS

Due to the new dog by-law for DeFazio and Memorial, new signs are being made for both parks. The "Welcome" signs will include wording that dogs, leashed or unleashed, are not permitted at the parks, other than a service dog. In addition, "No Dog" signs will be created that provide the same message and also note the fine. The actual by-law is posted on the department's website and will be sent to all of the groups holding permits,

as it also provides information relevant to the other parks, including the pooper scooper section which had not been included in the past. Currently, we are getting complaints about off-leash dogs at Perry Park, and the Animal Control Officer has been given that information.

4th of JULY FLOAT

Town staff members are working on a concept for a float in this year's parade, honoring the 300th birthday. Louise Miller will chair the working group. We are also encouraging the Park and Recreation summer program and pool staff to participate in the parade. The staff has periodically been involved with the parade, typically overseen by enthusiastic staff members, and for a few years, overseen by members of the Commission!

NEEDHAM GOLF CLUB

The old club house is gone and the new one is close to completion. If you haven't been by recently, you'll notice lots of changes! Because the project isn't finished, there may be a delay to the opening of the season. Park and Recreation has Senior Golf starting in early May, as well as Adult Golf lessons during the month of May on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

OFFICE

We are now gearing up for the busy spring season and preparations for the summer season. Karen, Nicole and Sam will all have some vacation time during the next few weeks to they are energized for the busy season! I'll try to work on some time off, too. Our condolences to Sam for the recent loss of her stepfather!

PAKISTAN

The Town Manager, along with the Wellesley Town Manager, have applied and been accepted to be host communities for a few weeks in April to two female government officials from Pakistan. It is an exchange program arranged through the Mass Municipal Association. You'll have the opportunity to meet the women!
