

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 23, 2012

*Background notes for Monday, November 26th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

THE KREATORZ

The High Rock School has a team in the First Lego League. It is called "The Kreatorz" and the members from the 6th grade class are Alex Ektov, Henry Keegan, Haley Kent, Kevin Mullaney and Noah Ramos. The members have come up with a project concept for Memorial Park, but would like to practice their presentation with a Town board prior to their official team presentation, so they will come to the Park and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Dave DiCicco has worked with the group, as has our Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco. Dave has invited members of the Trustees of Memorial Park and the Board of Selectmen to join you at the presentation, if they are available, and its likely family members will also come.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, December 17 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall – Highland Room (lower level)
A second Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 3rd. The Park and Recreation Commission only has one meeting scheduled in December.

PHILIP V. ROBEY PLAYGROUND AT NEWMAN

The new playgrounds at Newman for Grades 1-5 and Kindergarten have been named in honor of Phil Robey. Phil has been involved in many Needham groups for decades, and spent almost 20 years as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. For all of us who know Phil, his membership on any organization or board isn't by name only – he is an active member of all organizations that he joins. The dedication was on November 18th.

NEWMAN PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

There is a third playground at Newman, for the preschool program. The MA Architectural Access Board was reviewing a walk-way near the playground and notified the PPBC that they have decided that wood fiber surfacing does not meet their criteria for accessibility. It does meet the national playground standards. The board hasn't notified any companies selling playgrounds or local disability commissions of their standard, so the School Department, Town Counsel, Needham Disabilities Commission and I will need to meet with them to determine what their standards are, and how it can be met.

ROSEMARY POOL

A portion of the draft RFP is in the packet. At the meeting, the Chairman will need to appoint two representatives to the PPBC to work with the PPBC staff and to be voting members on the PPBC.

TENNIS NETS

The majority of the tennis nets will be taken down for the winter. Constant exposure to winter temperatures, snow and ice causes the nets to deteriorate, so we try to leave 1-2 up at Mills for the winter, and this year, will look at leaving one up at the High School and one at Newman. It is expensive to replace 12 nets each year, and bringing the majority in for the winter allows us to re-use the nets for several years.

AGENDA ITEMS

Now that Special Town Meeting has voted to fund renovations of Greene's Field, including a new playground, this topic will become a regular agenda item in December. In addition, funding was authorized for an engineering study of a possible rail trail from Needham Junction to the Charles River, so this will also become a regular agenda item. The Park and Recreation Commission will be the primary board reviewing this addition to the Town's recreation resources. The Board of Selectmen will hold the lease, if the Town decides it is favorable to apply for it through the MBTA. Pre-approval for the request was already granted in July 2012.

WRIST UPDATE

It's hard to believe but November 28th is the one year anniversary of my wrist injury – it happened when I got home from the Commission's meeting that night! Thank you to all of you for your help and support during this year – and especially to Karen, Nicole and Cassandra who took up some of my tasks – and helped me with simple day-to-day functions, like opening a bottle! I've recovered lots of function after 3 surgeries and months of therapy, and still have a way to go but haven't given up! Not too many people can break a wrist as well as I can 😊
