

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**January 19, 2018**

*Background notes for Monday, January 22, 2018*

*Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION**

Attached to this report is a letter from the Superintendent on the impact to parking and traffic from the upcoming renovation project at Needham High School. The project will begin in early February with an anticipated finish date by late August 2018. Park and Recreation programs will continue, as scheduled, through the spring. No summer programs will be held at the High School, though we anticipate the tennis courts being available for use by residents.

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**MEETING WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

The Commission will be holding a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss a variety of mutual topics:

- Rosemary Recreation Complex Status;
- Update on Projects (Needham Accessible Reservoir Trail, Pop-Up Skate Park);
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Action Items and Goals;
- Project Concepts (Ice Rink on Greene's Field, Community Campus/Hockey Rink);
- Highway Commercial Zoning

It will be part of the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM, after a few other quick business topics. The meeting will be at PSAB in the Charles River Room.

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**OUTDOOR SKATING**

Though all ponds have held at more than 6" of ice since late December, the Reservoir has had the best surface for skating. DPW has plowed snow off it twice, and put the effort onto this location as it has sufficient parking and lights for night skating.

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**ROSEMARY TRAIL**

The request to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funding the demolition of the buildings at the Rosemary camp property will be discussed at the CPC meeting on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Matt Toolan will present the proposal to the CPC. There will be a March public hearing on all proposals presented to the CPC and in late March, the CPC will vote on its recommendations for May Town Meeting. This phase of work is for the demolition work, and then a plan will be developed for replacement, i.e. picnic pavilion. The trailhead from the parking lot at the Rosemary Recreation Complex is being rebuilt as part of that facility's construction project. A request to rebuild the small bridge over the brook has been submitted to the Student Conservation Association

by the Conservation Director. We are waiting to be accepted as a 2018 summer project. The funding is already approved through a prior CPC authorization.

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### **NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS**

Different classes at Needham High School are sending students out into the community to develop project ideas. I've been approached by three groups, as of today, with topics including, (a) dealing with trash at parks; (b) creating a bee colony and community garden; and (c) creating recreation opportunities to get children outside without use of electronic devices.

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### **EVERSOURCE**

The transmission line project is still at the siting board, and Eversource is reviewing another route that takes the line from Valley Road over to South Street. The Conservation Commission has met with Eversource at a public hearing, and will continue the hearing on Thursday, January 25 at 8:15 PM. I have heard that a resident raised a question about the boat launch on South Street at Dedham Avenue, which is Park and Recreation property, and an upcoming design project for improvements. The question raised isn't clear to me, but I will ask the Town Manager for any updates.

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