

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 9, 2018

Background notes for Monday, February 12, 2018

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

GUESTS AT MEETING

The Town Manager, Kate Fitzpatrick, was hoping to attend Monday's meeting, but she has been asked to be at Rep. Garlick's presentation at the same time so will plan on attending the February 26th meeting. She had sent some thoughts about policy regarding use of the multi-purpose room at Rosemary Recreation Complex. Though each building will have special regulations, she is hoping that there is some similarity between various policies. The Rosemary Recreation Complex Project Manager Mike Retzky will attend to give a brief update on the project construction. He is also project manager to the Memorial Park building, so would like to discuss temporary parking during construction.

ROSEMARY TRAIL

The Student Conservation Association has accepted the trail project at Rosemary for their summer 2018 list. We will have two weeks of service, most of which will be for rebuilding the bridge over the brook, along with other trail improvements. We'll need to coordinate the schedule to avoid conflicts with the Rosemary Recreation Complex project.

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 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. I met with the recreation group. Their initial thought was to recommend the building of some facilities, but as we talked and they understood what facilities Needham already has, they felt they would be most effective in finding ways to educate families about the opportunities and show how the sites can be used. They have upcoming meetings with the 5th grade at Mitchell School and parents at Mitchell, and will hear about some of the thoughts for the new Mitchell playground. They will also reach out to the project manager for the Williams School to learn more about the outdoor plans at the site.

BUBBLE ON SYNTHETIC TURF

Commissioner Chris Gerstel and I have met with DPW Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen about how a bubble might be placed over one of the synthetic turf fields at DeFazio, and the issues related to that. Information is attached to this report.

OUTDOOR SKATING

Based on the Commission's discussions with the Board of Selectmen regarding a temporary ice rink, I've attached two articles related to rinks. The ice has continued to

remain thick on the ponds, with changing surfaces – soft on warm days and snow covered on other days. The Reservoir has had lots of skating, including at night, as we have left the lights on for night skating. It has helped introduce more people to the new trail, too.

SYNTHETIC TURF REPLACEMENT

The next major project to start into design phase next year is the replacement of the carpet on the synthetic turf fields at DeFazio and Memorial Parks. I've included an article with good tips to consider. There have been many improvements since the 2008 installation, including with the infill.
