

## Parks Department Updates

July 2019

The Parks Commission welcomed its newest member, Jeff Testa, to replace Eric Hebert, who had resigned earlier due to moving out of the state. Jeff was selected among eligible candidates from a combined board consisting of Parks Commissioners and Board of Selectmen members. He impressed the selection committee with his many years of experience in leadership roles with the youth basketball and soccer organizations. The Parks Commission also reorganized their board and accompanying subcommittees, with Jason Mayo retaining the Chairmanship, Sarah Gibbons becoming Vice Chair, and Kevin Williams taking the Clerk's position. Sarah will continue her chairmanship of Ayer Youth Soccer, and Kevin and Jeff will Co-Chair Ayer Youth Basketball. All other subcommittee appointments will remain the same, with the exception of Jason Leone being nominated to replace Randy Clemence (whose children have graduated from the program) as an ASYB Rep, and Jeff Testa joining the Sign Committee. Jason Mayo will be filling in for Rich Durand for his subcommittee appointments until his health improves. We all wish him a speedy recovery!

Swim lessons at Sandy Pond are running smoothly and are into their second session. Molly Cadogan has been doing an outstanding job in her first year as program coordinator, with many positive comments from parents and participants. Enrollment is at its highest since 2014. Next Year Molly is hoping to revive the Mommy, Daddy and me program for infants and toddlers, and introduce a preschool program for children that fall between the age gap of MD&M and Level I classes.

A successful bid was accepted for the Perimeter Path Phase II project, which should begin construction in late August or early September. It is expected the project should be completed fairly quickly. New basketball systems have been ordered for Sandy Pond, and should be installed in mid September. Replacement fences have been installed along the baselines of Field 5 at Pirone Park, including a 100' extension along right field to help retain balls from going into Grove Pond. Offers to accept bids on the Garage at Pirone Park have been posted, and we are hoping to get some competitive bids in to start work this fall.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director