

## Parks Department Updates

October 2020

Unlike the last few years, we have had an early fall, with almost all trees at Pirone and Sandy Pond Beach bare, and leaves knee deep in some areas. The Parks maintenance crew has been busy keeping up with their removal, as well as end of season tasks such as field rehab work, painting, repair and winterization of facilities, cleaning out storage areas, etc. It will be a great benefit to have the new building to utilize with doing these late season projects, particularly during harsh weather conditions (we already had a snow storm!).

The ASYB Basketball Board, a subcommittee of the Parks Department that oversees the Joint Ayer and Shirley basketball programs, has been meeting this fall with hopes of making a plan for the 2020-21 season. Unfortunately, it appears unlikely we will be able to have a season this year unless there are some significant changes with the current restrictions from COVID-19. The board will continue to work on potential plans to start the season late if possible with hopes the state and local restrictions are lifted. Most significant of these is the availability of the school gyms, without which there is no possibility of a program. The ASYB Board has set February 14 as the last date any form of season could be put together, as any start date after that would not allow enough weeks to do anything before running into the spring schedule of youth activities. With that said, one option being discussed is to have a modified program available in the spring that could be in place without compromising other spring activities. The board will continue reviewing this diligently as more information on the health crisis becomes available.

Several scouts have been working on projects at Parks Dept. Facilities. Graham Wall has completed a Gaga ball pit at Sandy Pond Beach, and Dawson Testa will be working on one at Pirone next month. Molly Schneider has been working on a Little Free Library to be erected at Sandy Pond and Jordan Higgins is working on a LFL of his own to be placed along the perimeter path. We greatly appreciate the effort of these scouts to enhance our facilities and give something back to the community.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director