

## Parks Department Updates

November 2020

The Parks Department felt a monumental loss this month, with the passing of Tim Nolan due to complications from a stroke several weeks earlier. Tim did so much for the Ayer Parks Department and youth sports in the community by generating revenue through donations for various projects at Pirone Park. Like all true heroes, he did this behind the scenes, not seeking credit for his extraordinary efforts. The next time you are going through Pirone and you see a backstop or dugout or batting cage (among many other things), think of Tim and know his fundraising helped to make those improvements happen with zero taxpayer dollars. The last thing he worked on was replacing the Field 6 backstop, a monster job that was estimated to cost \$25K, and though it took a few years, we got that done just last month. That completed the replacement of every field's fencing, and will be a long lasting legacy to him. Thank you Tim for all you did, you will be greatly missed.

The Parks Department started a new program this month to have residents decorate Christmas trees and Snowmen to be placed along the Pirone perimeter path. 4' tall cutouts were made available to the public to decorate and then be put on display for the holiday season. The program is going well so far, with over 75 requests for cutouts so far. We have put in the stakes already so as to beat the ground freezing over, and will be hanging the decorations as they come in.

We have also erected the skating rink, something we had not done for a few years due to the weather conditions being poor and the accessibility at Sandy Pond being limited. With the new building at Pirone offering four season waterflow, we hope to be able to maintain the rink with more efficiency, and also are hoping that the cooler weather along Grove Pond may allow for ice to be formed more easily. This year is mostly an experiment, and if things go well, we may try to expand the size of the rink going forward.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director