Ball Pond Advisory Committee MINUTES

January 8, 2008 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with all the BPAC members present: Brian Bosley, George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Walter Hope, and Terry Lent. Larry Marsicano (Candlewood Lake Authority) and Dr. Peter Rostenberg were guest speakers. First Selectman John Hodge (ex officio member) also attended part of the meeting on the discussion of Waterfront Residential District and Ball Pond Brook diversion.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2007 regular meeting as written. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens reported that Maureen Dangelo has formally resigned from the Ball Pond Advisory Committee for personal reasons.
- Cynthia Stevens will be meeting with the Finance Department on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss next year's Ball Pond Advisory Committee budget. She plans to ask for the same amount as was allotted in '07-'08 (i.e., \$5,000).

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

. Waterfront Residential District

- Presentation by Larry Marsicano, Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority
 - Gave a historical perspective on the Candlewood Lake Authority, citing its 2002 document entitled "Action Plan for Preserving Candlewood Lake" (www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org under Research/Conservation)
 - Suggested, in summary, that polluted run-off is one of the major issues facing lakes; how can development continue with the least impact on the environment (specific to New Fairfield and Ball Pond)?
 - discussed Proposed Waterfront Residential District in Proposed Zoning Regulations (<u>www.newfairfield.org</u> under Town Departments, Zoning)
 - referenced the Storm Water Management Plan which specifically targets those areas with the highest amount of impervious surface area (e.g., asphalt, cement, roofing) which cause disruptions to the water cycle
 - explained that the goal is to increase the protection of the water by working with homeowners

- New Fairfield Zoning Commission's public hearing on Thursday, January 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the NFHS Cafeteria
 - Candlewood Lake Authority members and members of UCONN Cooperative Extension's NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials, nemo.uconn.edu) will make presentations
 - recommends that Ball Pond Advisory Committee members attend and comment
- Discussion regarding all of the regulations that are already in place but are under-enforced. Committee members referenced recent examples on Ball Pond.

. Ball Pond Brook diversion

- Cynthia Stevens summarized the Committee's on-going concern over the Danbury Water Plan citing Ball Pond as a potential water source.
- . Presentation by Peter Rostenberg
 - Summarized the work of the project he has worked on with the Friends of Quaker Brook Haviland Hollow Watershed
 - . Recommendations for preserving watersheds:
 - . have very strict regulations and enforce them well
 - understand exactly what your goals are and use the best science possible to back them up (e.g., **Biodiversity** [variation of life forms within a given ecosystem often used to measure the health of biological systems] and **GIS** [Geographic Information System])
 - Brian Bosley asked for clarification of the Sewer Avoidance Program;
 Larry Marsicano and Peter Rostenberg gave a brief historical and technical description of sewers/sewage treatment plants
- Cynthia Stevens reported that the Committee would not be able to afford to hire a consultant to confirm the technical infeasibility of using Ball Pond Brook as a water source because an entire ecological study would be needed. She referred to a memo sent to her by Bob Jontos with his observations on the subject.
 - Selectman Hodge stated that Danbury doesn't intend to use Ball Pond and was forced by the State to include Ball Pond in its plan. Danbury is sending a report to Connecticut Department of Health saying that New Fairfield is not supportive of the Plan as written.
 - Cynthia Stevens would like the Selectmen to write a letter directly to Hartford, copying Danbury, objecting to the proposed diversion of Ball Pond Brook in Danbury's report. Selectman Hodge agreed to write the letter once he confirms that Danbury actually sent their proposal to Hartford. Cynthia Stevens will follow up.

[Peter Rostenberg and John Hodge left the meeting at 8:30; Larry Marsicano left the meeting at 8:35]

. Weed Survey

• Review of "Ball Pond Aquatic Plant Survey" (7/30/07) and "Ball Pond Water Quality Data" (2007) conducted by Benson Environmental (attached)

 Discussion about the need for carp on an annual basis despite the "positive" weed study

. Sandbar study

- Brian Bosley reported that Jim Mellett plans to run tests in February; Brian Bosley will assist him. Testing will include:
 - GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) will measure the thickness of the layers of sediment
 - . core sampling will determine where the sediment originated

. Other Old Business

- Motor ordinance: In order to strengthen the current ordinance, a Town meeting would be required; consensus is to leave this issue alone for now
- Some signs have been removed near the boat launch; Cynthia Stevens will follow up with the State

New Business:

• Brian Bosley will be returning to school and will therefore miss a few Committee meetings. He will stay involved via email communication.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Walter Hope made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander Recording Secretary