

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

March 11, 2008

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Brian Bosley, George Buck, Helen Gallagher, and Terry Lent were also present. Walter Hope entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Jim Mellett, an invited guest speaker on the sandbar analysis, was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Bosley made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2008 regular meeting as written. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to modify the agenda as follows: move items #3 and #4 to after #6 to accommodate the guest speaker; and to add "160 Ball Pond Road" to New Business

Helen Gallagher made a motion to make said changes to the agenda.

Walter Hope seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Old Business:

- . Sandbar Survey
 - . Invited guest Jim Mellett explained how he will test the sediment of the sandbar at the north end of Ball Pond using Ground Penetrating Radar to verify the source, which BPAC believes to be road sand.
 - . Jim Mellett referenced an article he published [Mellett, J. (1995). Profiling of Ponds and Bogs Using Ground-Penetrating Radar. *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 14, 233-240.]
 - . Jim Mellett reviewed the procedure he will use and what his needs will be in terms of equipment and volunteers
 - . testing should be done as close to 0 degrees Fahrenheit as possible for the sharpest image and should take a few hours
 - . spots will be marked out along the shoreline for reference
 - . someone will be needed to row a flat-bottomed boat with a plastic "kiddie pool" or flat-bottomed kayak attached to it (to carry the GPR equipment which must be kept dry). A second flat-bottomed row boat will be available, as well as a wide-bottomed kayak.
 - . core sampling will also be conducted using PVC tubing; this will enable comparison of the size of the particles
 - . Discussion ensued about low-tech equipment possibilities (different kinds of boats, ropes, buoys, etc.)

- Testing will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2008 @ 11:00 a.m.; volunteers will meet at Brian Bosley's house (135 Ball Pond Road)
- Ball Pond Advisory Committee members agreed to do the following:

Brian Bosley: work with Jim Mellett to plan the testing day; will make sure all equipment (i.e., boats, pool) is ready to go and the buoys are set

Terry Lent: look for buoys and long plastic planters for core sampling

Cynthia Stevens: identify 8 volunteers with wet suits or thermal waders (including Frank and Mary Yulo)

George Buck: contact Jim Mellett about the feasibility of using flat-bottomed kayak to hold GPR equipment

All: save detergent, bleach, etc. bottles to be used as buoys; Brian Bosley will collect

- Jim Mellett left the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

New Business:

- 160 Ball Pond Road
 - Michele Holmes will go before the Conservation – Inlands/Wetlands Commission on Tuesday, 3/18/08 at 7:15 in the Senior Center with a new application relating to stabilizing the hillside as well as other modifications
 - Brian Bosley and Cynthia Stevens will go to Town Hall this Thursday to view a sketch/map of the proposed changes
 - Discussion of questions related to the feasibility of the proposed changes in this application and what the response of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee should be
 - Cynthia Stevens will draft a letter to the Inlands/Wetlands Commission delineating the critical concerns hoping that the Commission may find the information useful in considering the application
 - All available Ball Pond Advisory Committee members should attend the Inlands/Wetlands Committee meeting on Tuesday
 - If the application is accepted, a petition with 25 signatures would mandate a public hearing that would probably be scheduled in May
- Ball Pond Outlet
 - Discussion of how to address the issue of sediment build-up at the storm sewer outlet in the Hahlawah Preserve (Land Trust Property)
 - Cynthia Stevens, Terry Lent, Tim Simpkins, Jane Didona, and Tom Quigley (I/W Committee) met to look at outlet on March 4, 2008
 - The Town will be consulting with Sean Hayden, Soil Scientist with the Northwest Conservation District, about the outlet and other storm drain issues including the possibility of creating plunge pools

- Election of Vice Chair
 - Cynthia Stevens remarked that the Committee should elect a good speaker who is able to attend meetings related to Ball Pond and thus recommended Helen Gallagher
 - Brian Bosley made a motion to nominate Helen Gallagher for the office of Vice Chair; Terry Lent seconded the motion
 - Vote: 5-0-0 (Walter Hope out of room); motion approved
- Candlewood Lake Initiative
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that a small, ad hoc group of Candlewood and Ball Pond residents has formed. It is this group's hope that the Zoning Commission will table the issue of the Waterfront Residential District until a comprehensive study is completed
 - Cynthia Stevens proposed writing a follow-up letter to the Zoning Commission; all in favor

General Correspondence:

- George Buck reported on the cormorant issue. Ball Pond will be stocked by the Inland Fisheries Division right before Opening Day (i.e., 3rd Saturday in April) to cut down on the amount of time the cormorants have to deplete the trout population.
- George Buck reported on the CLA's boat sticker program and the controversy surrounding it.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.
 - Vote: 6-0-0; Motion Approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary