

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

July 8, 2008

7:00 p.m.

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

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent, and Walter Hope were also present. Brian Bosley was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2008 regular meeting as written. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add "Geese" to the agenda under "New Business". Terry Lent made the motion as presented. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Public Comment:

Jim Mellet and Michael McLachlan (Republican candidate for State Senate) were present.

Old Business:

- Ball Pond Outlet
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed (for members of the public) the problem on the northeast end.
 - Bruce Lockhart spent one day on this project (\$1500). The area looks better now (i.e., water is flowing, stagnant smell is gone), but there is more work to be done. Cynthia Stevens recommended that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee request more money be put into the '09-'10 budget for weed removal. All present agreed.
 - George Buck stated that a good rain would also help the problem if the grate was temporarily lifted.
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that NF Public Works removed the pile of weeds that George Buck had collected in early spring.
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the history of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee since 1995, the carp study, etc. for Mr. McLachlan.
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that the State DEP weed dive will take place on 7/29/08.
- Sandbar Survey
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the issue of possible road sand running off into Ball Pond; if it can be proven that the particles are road sand, then the DEP can be contacted to remove it.
 - Jim Mellett explained the GPR and core sampling processes. A statistical analysis of the sizes of the particles should be able to verify whether the material is road sand.
 - Core sampling will tentatively take place on Saturday, July 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. All will meet in Brian Bosley's driveway. Cynthia Stevens will contact Brian Bosley, Katelyn Hope and Kristin Torre and email all involved participants when plans are solidified.
 - Cynthia Stevens reported on the storm drain issues (see "New Business")

- . Shoreline Construction
 - . Cynthia Stevens shared a letter from Peter Arrestad from the Inland Fisheries Division of the State DEP regarding shoreline construction (specifically seawalls and sand beaches) on Beach Pond in Voluntown, CT as the issues that they have there are similar to those facing Ball Pond.
 - . Cynthia Stevens read a certified letter sent to Terry Lent by one of her neighbors regarding an application to Inland/Wetlands for changes to be made to the property at 11 Lake Drive. Discussion ensued about these proposed changes.
 - . Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to send a letter to Inland/Wetlands requesting that a full A2 Study be conducted on this property. Helen Gallagher made the motion as presented. Walter Hope seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-1 (Terry Lent abstained; motion carried)

New Business:

- . Storm Drains
 - . Cynthia Stevens reviewed the issue with the deplorable condition of the storm drains near Ball Pond. The DOT did send someone out to clear the ones opposite the Town Beach; many others need to be cleaned but the DOT doesn't have enough equipment, etc. and is currently only addressing absolutely critical needs.
 - . Consensus of the group is that all of the storm drains need to be upgraded as they are not adequate for the current needs. Cynthia Stevens referred to the storm water management plan in the Town of Southeast in New York.
 - . The DOT representative who spoke with Cynthia Stevens said that they would send out a drainage engineer once the core sampling of the sand bar is completed and the results are sent to the DOT.
 - . Cynthia Stevens hopes that the Environmental Review Team, which will be looking at the entire watershed, will have some recommendations about storm water management.
- . Geese
 - . Cynthia Stevens reviewed the geese problem on Ball Pond and referred to the NY Times article that she circulated to the Committee via email.
 - . George Buck spoke about the behavior of geese and recommended that the eggs be "oiled" (a practice considered relatively humane whereby the eggs are retrieved, oil is put on the shells to decrease the oxygen exchange, and the eggs become un-viable). A permit from the DEP is needed to do this and it should be done from March – May.
 - . Cynthia Stevens will contact Larry Marsicano (Candlewood Lake Authority) to see how the geese over-population is handled on Candlewood.

Adjournment:

- . The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- . Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.; George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary