

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

November 10, 2009

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. George Buck, Walter Hope, and Terry Lent were also present. Brian Bosley and Helen Gallagher were not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Terry Lent made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2009 regular meeting. Walter Hope seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens reported that all of the money budgeted for this FY is spoken for (including a pending bill from George Benson and the Commission Secretary's salary). Discussion ensued about expanding budget requests in the future to allow for additional carp stocking and pink water lily removal.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Ball Pond Town beach
 - Cynthia Stevens referred to the letter that she read into record at the Ball Pond Advisory Committee meeting on September 8th. It was written to Sean Loughran, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, on August 17, 2009 clarifying what was discussed at the Ball Pond Advisory Committee meeting on August 11, 2009 related to the proposed Ball Pond Town Park.
 - Cynthia Stevens and Helen Gallagher attended a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. Not all members were in attendance. Cynthia Stevens was asked to present the plan for the Ball Pond Town Park. Some P & R members present expressed concerns about the plan. Although no actions were taken, Cynthia Stevens and Helen Gallagher got the sense that there is not unanimous support on the Commission for this project as proposed.
 - Future action was discussed. Cynthia Stevens will draft a follow-up letter thanking the Commission for allowing her to present the plan and reiterating the rationale for the key points of the plan. It may be necessary in the future to circulate a petition to Ball Pond area residents.
 - Discussion ensued about the possibility of this project being picked up by Town Buildings & Grounds rather than Parks and Recreation. The suggestion was made to discuss this possibility with First Selectman Hodge.
- Carp permit
 - Cynthia Stevens is following up with George Benson regarding the weed study data.
 - There is a general feeling on the Committee that additional carp should be applied for this Spring with the realistic aim of getting them in the Fall.
 - There is concern that the data collected during the July weed study will not accurately reflect the conditions after the unusual weed bloom in the late summer.

- The lake was last stocked in October 2008. Seventy-five carp were put in. There are still some fish remaining from the 1997 initial stocking. They are upwards of 30 pounds at this point. The lake has been stocked about four times since then.
- George Buck would like to request 100 carp next time.
- The consensus is to wait for the weed study data, write a narrative explanation of what conditions were like following the study (i.e., the unusual weed bloom), and then request 100 carp for re-stocking in the spring of 2010.

New Business:

- Development on Ball Pond
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that landscape architect, Jane Didona, recommends that someone go before the Inlands/Wetlands Commission to explain what must be done to preserve and protect Ball Pond. There is no "Public Comment" at Inlands/Wetlands Commission meetings, so the Ball Pond Advisory Committee would have to ask to be put on an agenda. The Ball Pond Advisory Committee would like to discuss Ball Pond Lake Management especially in light of the new Zoning regulations. It would be good to involve Jane Didona as she is a well-respected, knowledgeable professional in her field. Cynthia Stevens will talk to her and report back the Ball Pond Advisory Committee.
- Water quality study
 - Tim Simpkins is down-staff and has been busy organizing the H1N1 immunization clinics. The second set of water quality study data is not back yet. Initial findings suggest that the lake looks clear. It is still considered to be "late mesotrophic".
 - Cynthia Stevens will follow up with Tim Simpkins to make sure that the data are submitted to the State by the December deadline.

Other Business:

- Walter Hope remarked that one of his neighbors clear-cut his entire property as well as making other modifications to his property that were clearly not approved.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.; Walter Hope seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary