

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

February 10, 2009

7:00 p.m.

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

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Brian Bosley, Helen Gallagher, and Terry Lent were also present. George Buck and Walter Hope were not in attendance. Geologist Jim Mellett was an invited guest.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 regular meeting as written. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens circulated a copy of a thank you letter that she wrote to Jack Yeoman and Paul Corrente from the Department of Transportation acknowledging their work on the storm drains on Route 39 in early December.
- Cynthia Stevens reported on a budget issue for this year. The \$600 invoice for the diving services of Michael Coleman during the summer weed study was not included in the budget calculations for the remainder of '08-'09. Therefore, there will not be as much money available for the removal of pink water lilies in the spring. About \$400 will be able to be allocated to this effort during this fiscal year.

Public Comment:

- Ball Pond community resident Adeline (Addy) Zimmerman introduced herself.

Old Business:

- Town Beach
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that she met with Steve Merullo, Director of Parks and Recreation, and that the Town is considering the following actions to address the issues surrounding the Town Beach:
 - Clean up the space and create a park.
 - Remove sand (except for that needed for boats to enter the water); replace with topsoil.
 - "Weed whack" 2 times per month (not mow)
 - Build a sandbox.
 - Provide/maintain a garbage can.
 - Purchase benches and plantings.
 - A lifeguard will NOT be provided; therefore, no swimming.
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that Jane Didona, landscape architect, has offered to meet with Steve Merullo and Bobby Rzasa (Public Works) and then to design the park.

- Discussion ensued including issues such as the desire of residents to swim, the feasibility of portable toilets, parking difficulties, etc.
- Cynthia Stevens mentioned that the Town has offered to sell the Beach property to residents in the Community for \$1. The owner would then be responsible for paying liability insurance. Cynthia Stevens also brought up the possibility of applying for a Meserve Memorial Fund grant.
- Sandbar
 - Jim Mellett presented his findings from the core sampling of October 2008 in a paper entitled, "Sedimentological Survey of Delta at North End of Ball Pond, New Fairfield, Connecticut" (attached).
 - Generally speaking, Jim Mellett believes the delta is much larger than it was initially estimated. The composition of the delta is clearly road sand. He recommends sending a copy of his report to the State DOT and possibly conducting further testing.
 - Cynthia Stevens will forward Jim Mellett's paper to the State and will encourage them to look at all of the state-controlled storm drains.
 - Cynthia Stevens would like the Ball Pond Advisory Committee members to arrange a walking meeting in the early spring to examine ALL of the storm drains around the entire lake (in order to have informed discussions with the State and the Town). All present agreed.
 - As an aside, Jim Mellett would like CT to consider going "fertilizer-free". Discussion ensued.

New Business:

- Fishing on Ball Pond
 - Cynthia Stevens received a report from a resident claiming that he witnessed people ice fishing in excess. Brian Bosley and George Buck investigated. George Buck reported the incident to the Conservation Officer (State DEP) and posted it on the Ctfisherman.com website. Brian Bosley has been talking to some fisherman casually in hopes of raising awareness and encouraging self-policing.
 - Cynthia Stevens will pass on this information to the residents of Ball Pond Estates.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.; Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.
Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary