



# Town of New Fairfield

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWN HALL  
4 BRUSH HILL ROAD  
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT 06812

FAX (203) 746-1250

August 17, 2009

Memo to: Sean Loughran, Chairman

Subject: Ball Pond Town Park

Thank you very much for the interest of the Parks and Recreation Commission in our proposed improvements to the Ball Pond Town Park, which as you know, has suffered significant erosion and been an eyesore in the community for years. In response to my request, the DOT did clean out storm drains and alleviate the flooding problem on Route 39 by creating a rip rap swale to the south of the fence last year. However, the property is badly scarred by runoff from the road.

Because residents do enjoy fishing and sitting on this Town property, the Ball Pond Advisory Committee has been brainstorming with Steve Merullo to improve its appearance and user experience. We understand there is to be no swimming. As a contribution to the Town, the non-profit Friends of Ball Pond stepped forward and contracted with Didona Associates Landscape Architects to design a site that would address the erosion and be an asset. Only native species would be planted.

We were very pleased that Steve and Bill O'Keeffe attended our BPAC meeting on Tuesday when landscape architect Derrick Shuhart presented a conceptual plan. Good questions about the erosion were raised. By relying on sheet drainage and rain garden planting as shown in the conceptual plan, the firm says they are responding to the natural drainage patterns, rather than trying to force the runoff to do what we want. Based on long experience, Didona Associates has been able to remedy similar situations without major excavations. Their view is that attempting to create collection points such as trenches or curtain drains are often unappealing and require regular maintenance. In this case, we have the added complication that Rte. 39 is State-owned.

BPAC is very eager to work with you on resolving the issue of this Town property so that it adds value not only to the Ball Pond residents but for anyone driving by it. Please feel free to contact me with questions at 746-9762.

Cynthia A. Stevens

Chairman

.cc John Hodge