

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

January 12, 2010

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Brian Bosley, George Buck, Helen Gallagher, and Walter Hope were also present. Terry Lent was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Walter Hope made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 regular meeting. George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-2 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens reported on the remaining budget and deferred discussion of needs for next year's budget to New Business
- Cynthia Stevens announced that the American Red Cross is seeking nominees to honor at its "Community Heroes of Connecticut 2010 Breakfast Celebration". Anyone interested in nominating someone should see Cynthia for details.
- Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add "Ball Pond Town Park" to tonight's agenda under Old Business. Walter Hope made said motion. George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Carp re-stocking
 - Cynthia Stevens has not been able to verify to date if George Benson has sent the results of the weed study to the DEP. She will continue to follow up with him.
 - Discussion proceeded regarding whether or not the carp are eating coontail as well as milfoil. It appears that they are.
 - The consensus of the group is to apply for more fish.
 - Cynthia Stevens feels that the application should be submitted sooner rather than later. George Buck will not be able to do it until he returns to the area in March.
 - George Buck advised that the best time to stock would be mid-late June to avoid the cormorant predators.
 - A potential problem related to applying for fish is that the data from the weed study may not accurately show the magnitude of the late summer weed bloom since samples were collected in July. In the future, pictures should be taken of substantial blooms to substantiate subjective data.
 - A question was raised about why weeds aren't weighed anymore during the summer weed survey. Without this, are the data accurate? Cynthia Stevens will follow up with Tim Simpkins.
 - The Ball Pond Advisory Committee will submit an application for 200 carp.
- Erosion from Route 39
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that the drains across from the Town Park are clogged.

- Cynthia Stevens spoke with someone at the State DOT and cited three current problems: the delta at the north end, the problem at the Town Park, and the north side hillside (i.e., workers were seen moving a large quantity of debris across the street to the lakeside). Cynthia Stevens left a message for the Environmental Officer.
- Discussion ensued about the storm drains near the Town Park and what is causing them to be so clogged. Brian Bosley and Walter Hope will look for opportunities to take pictures of the problem, especially times when water is over the road.
- Ball Pond Town Park
 - Cynthia Stevens updated the Committee on the status of the proposed Town Park plan. The Parks & Recreation Commission members are not unanimously in favor of taking this project on. They still appear to be in favor of letting the property go back to its “natural state” which the Ball Pond Advisory Committee says could not happen because the property would be invaded by invasives and compromise the ecosystem.
 - Cynthia Stevens proposed that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee take over the property and upgrade it as indicated in the plans created by Didona Associates. The consensus was to propose that idea to the Board of Selectmen. Cynthia Stevens hopes to meet with First Selectman Hodge in the near future to discuss the continued beautification of the Town (specifically Ball Pond) and environmentally-sound practices of erosion control. It is important for everyone to understand that “return to a natural state” does NOT mean “abandon”.
 - Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to explore the possibility of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee acquiring responsibility for the Ball Pond Town Park. Walter Hope made said motion. Brian Bosley seconded the motion.
Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

New Business:

- 2010-11 Budget
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the current year’s budget and proposed a 2% decrease (i.e., \$50 from materials line and \$50 from weed removal)

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Walter Hope made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.; Brian Bosley seconded the motion.
Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary