

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

November 8, 2011

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Brian Bosley, Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent were also in attendance. George Buck was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2011 meeting. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-1 (Motion Approved)

Brian Bosley made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-1 (Motion Approved)

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add "Dredging on North End" to the agenda under "New Business". Brian Bosley made the said motion. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens reported that Hydro Technologies submitted their bill on 10/25/2011 for \$325.00 for water analysis.

Public Comment:

Old Business:

- Town Park
 - Cynthia Stevens reported on the recent Friends of Ball Pond meeting.
 - There is a general consensus not to have a boat rack on the property. Some residents reportedly find that it detracts from the view.
 - Brian Bosley countered with the idea that some residents who do not have the means to transport their boats to the boat launch might miss having the boat rack available at the Town Park. If there is no boat rack, a "carry in; carry out" sign will have to be posted.
 - Cynthia Stevens suggested that the boat rack remain where it is being temporarily stored until/unless there is a request from the public to have it returned. At that point, BPAC would consider asking Parks & Recreation to bring it back.
 - The Friends are very interested in accepting donations of plantings from residents. This would presumably increase community involvement and ownership.

- Cynthia Stevens and Helen Gallagher met informally with Jane Didona who reminded them that any plantings would have to be non-invasive and would have to be varieties that do very well in extremely wet soil.
 - Cynthia Stevens and Brian Bosley expressed concern about erosion control on the site. The consensus of the group is to suggest to the Friends that they wait until Spring to see what happens with snow run-off, etc.
 - The Friends would like to install (a) memorial bench(es) at the Park. Cynthia Stevens asked First Selectman Hodge about the logistics of this type of donation to the Town. He will inquire about the need for a Town Meeting and will get back to Cynthia Stevens.
- Brian Bosley will attend the Parks and Recreation meeting on Monday, November 14th. Cynthia Stevens, Terry Lent, and Helen Gallagher plan to attend as well. Brian Bosley will thank the Commission for their work on the Park. He will also mention the boat rack issue and the question of plantings and will recommend that any decisions on the subjects be tabled until the Spring.
- Water Quality Testing
 - Brian Bosley requested soft copies of the most recent (as well as past and future) water quality studies so that he can start to keep track of them. Cynthia Stevens will contact Hydro Technologies. Terry Lent requested a hard copy of the current data to review. Darlene Anderson-Alexander will make a copy and deliver it to her.
 - Cynthia Stevens reported on the 9/22/11 water testing which she reviewed with Tim Simpkins.
 - Ball Pond is still considered “mesotrophic” and is in fairly good shape.
 - Some phosphorus is now present at lower lake levels because dead plant matter has dropped down.
 - Calcium and the alkalinity are low, so there is apparently a fairly low risk for zebra mussel invasion. Cynthia Stevens will obtain the actual levels that are considered favorable for zebra mussels from Larry Marsicano for more precise comparison.
 - Tim Simpkins suggested a June survey might be useful before the carp become active. If the State will not consider moving the date from September to June, however, BPAC would have to pay for it as an additional test. Since BPAC does not currently have extra funds available, it does not seem that this should be a high priority at this point.
 - Coontail is the primary weed present.
- Carp
 - 80 carp were successfully stocked on October 12, 2011.
- Purple Loosestrife
 - Cynthia Stevens feels that the purple loosestrife growth has gotten bad. Greg Bugbee from the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at the State may be the person to get beetles from. She will contact him.
 - Terry Lent is opposed to introducing the beetles to combat the loosestrife as that seems to upset the natural construct of “survival of the fittest”. She expressed concern about the ramifications of bringing in the beetles.
 - Brian Bosley hasn’t heard of any long-term impact from using beetles.
 - Cynthia Stevens will check with Greg Bugbee
 - Terry Lent will try to locate a report that she read recently citing the negative impact of beetle usage.

New Business:

- Dredging on North End
 - Brian Bosley reported that he recently read in the Citizen News of a budget surplus. He would like BPAC to propose that the Town use a portion of that surplus to fund dredging in the north end of Ball Pond.
 - Brian Bosley would like to use the data from Jim Mellett's core sampling of October 2008 (as summarized in "Sedimentological Survey of Delta at North End of Ball Pond, New Fairfield, Connecticut" [http://www.newfairfield.org/filestorage/74/3492/3496/3508/bpac_2_10_09_minutes_attachment.pdf]) to demonstrate the need for attention to this area.
 - This would be a good place to start with the possibility of studying and remediating other areas of the lake in the future.
 - Cynthia Stevens recommended clarifying the exact amount of the budget surplus and then drafting a solid proposal to bring before the Selectmen. Brian Bosley will draft a proposal and will forward it to BPAC members for review.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Brian Bosley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.; Terry Lent seconded the motion.
Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary