

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

February 8, 2011, amended

7:00 p.m.

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

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Brian Bosley, Helen Gallagher, and 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 January 11, 2011 regular meeting. Brian Bosley seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-1 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens received a copy of Walter Hope's formal resignation from the Ball Pond Advisory from the Selectmen's Office
- Cynthia Stevens reviewed the latest financial report. There is money remaining in the budget to pay George Benson and the BPAC secretary.

Public Comment:

- Mary Spinali, Board member of the Ball Pond Estates Property Owners' Association, was present to express concerns about the weed problem last summer
 - Ms. Spinali reported that some of the 72 current resident members are considering not joining the private beach this summer because of the weed issue. She shared several photographs with the group taken during the summer of 2010.
 - Ms. Spinali raised the possibility of using benthic barriers which are laid on the lake floor covering the sediment like a blanket and compressing aquatic plants while reducing or blocking light.
 - Benefits to using this method include: they are reusable/repositionable, at least one company that sells them offers a guarantee, they can be put down before the swim season starts, the cost seems reasonable (estimated \$240 for a 10'x40' blanket)
 - BPAC members expressed reservations because this takes a lot of committed workers. If barriers are laid during swim season there are safety concerns with possible billowing and, if not left through the summer, the odds are that weeds will grow anyway.
 - BPAC members suggested obtaining an estimate from Bruce Lockhart, who many property owners hire to vacuum the weeds. Helen Gallagher believes this is the best solution. Cynthia Stevens expressed concern that it can cost a lot of money to get acceptable results.
 - Cynthia Stevens explained how the BPAC budgeted money is spent and how there is no extra funding available. The Town is unable to assist private communities in any case. She said she would pass on Ms. Spinali's concerns to the Department of Fisheries to strengthen the argument that more carp are needed.

Old Business:

- BPAC appointments
 - Ron Belmont is no longer available.
 - There are two vacancies on the Committee
- Town Park
 - Cynthia Stevens will email a copy of the most recent proposal from Didona and Associates with the financials listed as well as a copy of the plans to Brian Bosley as requested at the January meeting.
 - The Friends of Ball Pond were not awarded with a Meserve Fund Grant. The grant-reviewers were impressed with the application, but are facing limited resources.
 - Cynthia Stevens made an application to the Community Trust via Dana Welles who has forwarded it on to several potential donors.
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the history to date of this property for the public.
 - Cynthia Stevens reminded the Committee that, if there is no available funding, the Town Challenge grant can't be met, and then the Town will plant grass on the property.
- Carp restocking
 - Cynthia Stevens contacted Pete Aarrestad to inform him that we will be submitting an application for additional carp.
 - George Benson has not submitted his report to date. Darlene Anderson-Alexander will contact him to make sure that he received the scanned water quality study data.

New Business:

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Brian Bosley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.; Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary