

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES - revised

February 14, 2012

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Helen Gallagher and Terry Lent were also in attendance. Brian Bosley and George Buck were not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

Cynthia Stevens reported that she received the monthly budget summary from the town. The bill for the weed data analysis from George Benson is \$500.00. After that there will be approximately \$1200.00 left in the budget for materials and supplies.

Public Comment: None

Old Business

Purple Loosestrife

Cynthia Stevens spoke of the Purple Loosestrife problem on Ball Pond and noted that she spoke with an Entomologist at the University of Minnesota and two Ecological Restorationists in Massachusetts. All of the consultants were in favor of using beetles to combat the purple loosestrife. Cynthia Stevens noted that she spoke with these professionals regarding the feasibility of having homeowners pull up the loosestrife and noted that it was not an easy process and did not seem feasible because it's hard to get all the roots and millions of seeds spill in the process. The harvested plants need to be stored in double bags until they die and then burned which requires a permit.

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of using the beetles. Cynthia Stevens noted that beetles were last used in Ball Pond in 2006 successfully. Beetles can be purchased from an Agricultural station in New Jersey at a cost of approximately \$1,000 for 3,000 beetles. A federal permit is needed for the beetles since they will be crossing state lines. Cynthia Stevens noted that the Friends of Ball Pond is willing to consider paying for this.

Helen Gallagher made a motion to proceed with the acquisition of 3,000 beetles for Ball Pond and to approach the Friends of Ball Pond for funding and the acquisition of the necessary permits. Cynthia Stevens seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion Approved- Terry Lent opposed)

Weed data

Cynthia Stevens noted that she received weed data from George Benson and noted that Ball Pond is a good environment for Zebra Mussels due to high calcium levels. It was suggested that a program be implemented to wash boats before going into Ball