

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

November 14, 2013

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:02. George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent, and Gary Mummert were also in attendance. Mark Spellman arrived at 7:05

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2013 regular meeting as corrected. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion Approved) Gary Mummert abstained as he was not a member at the October meeting.

General Correspondence:

- Gary Mummert was officially signed in to be on the Ball Pond Advisory Committee. All present welcomed him to the Committee.
- Darlene Anderson-Alexander distributed the Ball Pond Advisory Committee calendar for 2014. The Committee will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room. The calendar has been submitted to the Town Clerk and will be posted on-line.
- Cynthia Stevens reported on the Financial report. The balance is \$2145 although it is unclear whether or not Benson Environmental has been paid (\$500 for weed study); Darlene will follow up with Ed Sbordone about why the \$500 is "encumbered" even though the Final Payment/Closing Copy of the associated Purchase Order has been received.

Public Comment:

Tom and Addie Bolger from Ball Pond Estates were present, and deferred their comments to the agenda items.

Old Business:

- Coon tail and carp
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the history of the carp strategy beginning in 1995 for the benefit of new member Gary Mummert and members of the public.
 - The State DEEP Department of Fisheries has not agreed to allow Ball Pond to be stocked with carp in 2014; they want to see the effects of the last stocking.
 - Cynthia Stevens proposed to Mindy Barnett that after she looks at the summer 2014 data (with the addition of the recently-approved second dive in June) maybe she will allow stocking in the fall. This is what Cynthia Stevens sees as the best hope for getting more carp.
 - Cynthia Stevens explained that homeowners supplement the weed removal money by hiring their own contractors. It may be necessary to vacuum more frequently.
 - Cynthia Stevens described other ways to deal with weed and muck issues (e.g., dredging, hydro rake, harvesters).
 - Mark Spellmann asked for clarification about how much weed removal costs (i.e., how much of a result do you see for a given amount of money). Discussion ensued.

- Tom and Addie Bolger from Ball Pond Estates raised the following issues on behalf of their community:
 - The summer of 2013 was the worst summer for weeds that they remember in all of the years that they've been coming to Ball Pond.
 - Is there enough money in the Ball Pond Advisory Committee budget to adequately deal with the weed issues?
 - Perhaps high school students seeking Community Service Hours might be interested in helping with some of the weed eradication. George Buck reported that that was done a number of years ago; he offered to help share how he coordinated the efforts.
 - Is the coon tail growing faster than the carp can eat them? George Buck explained overstocking and the delicate balance that must be achieved.
 - Is there enough money for an adequate number of carp? Mark Spellmann clarified that the State decides how many grass carp we can put in regardless of our funding status; the money controls whether or not we can hire harvesters, etc. to supplement the grass carp program.
 - Does freezing help to kill the weeds? George Buck explained that there are many factors that determine the efficacy of freezing (i.e., timing, duration).
 - The danger of the weeds around their community's raft for kids swimming is a great concern.
 - Is the use of fertilizers and cleaners adding nutrients to the lake? Does duck/goose fecal matter increase the level of e.coli? Cynthia Stevens explained that the water is tested three times per year through the Town and it is actually in good shape.
- Lilies
 - Matt Vogt from New England Aquatic Services will take on the lilies (yellow and pink) by digging them out in the spring. George Buck suggested not removing all of the native pond lilies. Terry Lent agreed and suggested a maintenance program.

New Business:

- Election of officers
 - Helen Gallagher made a motion to nominate Cynthia Stevens to continue as Chair of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee; Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)
 - Terry Lent made a motion to nominate Helen Gallagher as Vice Chair of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee; Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)
 - Cynthia Stevens and Helen Gallagher were thanked by all for their willingness to serve.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.; George Buck seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary