

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES, revised

April 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent, and Gary Mummert were in attendance. Mark Spellmann was absent.

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to move "New Business" to the beginning of the meeting to respect the time of the guest speaker. Helen Gallagher made the said motion. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

New Business:

Guest speaker Dr. Rolf Martin (regarding water quality)

- Cynthia Stevens reviewed Dr. Martin's professional background. His most recent work has been on a spinal cord injury research team. Dr. Martin grew up in Sherman and therefore is concerned about the Candlewood Lake Watershed.
- Cynthia Stevens reviewed the carp project, starting in 1995, including annual weed dives and the water quality data that are collected twice each year.
- Dr. Martin is interested in seeing any data from Ball Pond (weed and water) to analyze in order to possibly make predictions for weed growth. He has the ability to create predictive models that would become more accurate over time. Cynthia Stevens will try to obtain data from the DEEP.
- Dr. Martin showed a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the use of technology for environmental water quality monitoring and testing, specifically that offered by YSI (<http://www.ysi.com/index.php>)
 - Dr. Martin will send a soft copy of his presentation to anyone who is interested.
 - Dr. Martin referenced work being done on Lake Lillinonah, supported by Jennifer Klug who is affiliated with Fairfield University and GLEON (Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network).
 - Dr. Martin reported that he has met with Larry Marsicano from the Candlewood Lake Authority and has seen data from Candlewood which shows a statistically significant warming trend.
 - Cynthia Stevens and Dr. Martin spoke via telephone with Tom Wazniak, a representative from YSI, to find out details about the cost of equipment, exactly what is needed, and the process that would be followed if YSI equipment was purchased to be used on Ball Pond.
 - The group discussed the feasibility of adopting such a system.
 - Tom Wazniak will put together a spreadsheet of items to be purchased that could be presented to the Selectmen if deemed appropriate by the Committee.
 - George Buck would like to see references from lakes the size of Ball Pond that have used this equipment.
 - Concerns were expressed about available skills to conduct the project (e.g., high school students, college students, Ball Pond residents) with on-going commitment.
- Cynthia Stevens proposed that Committee members contact Larry Marsicano, read the News Times article that Dr. Martin referenced in his presentation, and assess the skills and availability of Ball Pond residents to participate in this type of research. If the project seems feasible, the NFHS Science Department should be contacted to assess their interest in being involved. Another option may be to ask participants of the NEC-NALMS (New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society) conference in June if they have any experience using technology such as this and, if so, whether they have any wisdom to share. All present were in agreement that this is a good plan to assess whether Dr. Martin's services and the YSI equipment are a good fit for Ball Pond.

Approval of Minutes:

Terry Lent made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014 regular meeting. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-1 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

Cynthia Sevens reviewed the monthly statement from Finance. The recommended budget will be going to the voters shortly.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Other:

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add Rodeo Herbicide to the agenda. Gary Mummert made the said motion. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

- Rodeo (nonvolatile glyphosate) Herbicide
 - Gary Mummert has looked into the State using Rodeo along guardrails on State roads. He spoke with someone named Steve from the State DEEP. Gary Mummert was told that the chemical is similar to Roundup, yet “safe for aquatic life”. He was also told that residents can refuse to have herbicides sprayed on their property they are willing to keep guardrail areas clear. Residents can call 203-591-3624.
 - Gary Mummert researched Rodeo a bit and it seems that the inert ingredients are causing problems too.
 - George Buck discussed Agent Orange exposure and the derivative chemicals that bio-accumulate over years.
 - Gary Mummert suggested that this Committee might have some responsibility to educate Ball Pond residents.
 - Cynthia Stevens suggested that an article in the Citizen News or a discussion at the Friends of Ball Pond Annual Meeting might be a good place to start.
 - Gary Mummert wondered if there is a local expert available to speak to this issue.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.; George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary