

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**MINUTES revised**

June 12, 2014

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 12, 2014 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent, Gary Mummert, and Mark Spellmann were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Terry Lent made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 regular meeting. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add "Town Park" to Old Business. Gary Mummert made the said motion. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Weed dive
  - The next weed dive is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at about 9:00 a.m.
    - George Benson and Tim Simpkins will be there; The diver, Mike Coleman, must be paid in this fiscal year.
    - Cynthia Stevens invited committee members to attend the dive if they are able; she will not be able to be there.
  - The goal of this weed dive is to determine the weed mass before the heavy summer rains fall (although even the recent rains have sunk some very thick weeds)
    - Discussion ensued about the current weed situation. All reported seeing a high weed mass and unusual weed patterns with no clear explanation. A great deal of coontail has been spotted on the surface.
- Weed removal
  - Matt Vogt from New England Aquatic Services will be on the Pond with his boat at the end of next week or the following week
    - There is a concern that if the work is done prior to the weed dive, it will skew the results.
    - Cynthia advised Matt Vogt to remove the pink water lilies and weeds on the private beach and private properties before undertaking yellow pond weeds and the masses of coontail in public areas.
  - Gary Mummert saw a solar-powered paddle boat used in Baltimore for trash removal and is curious about something like that – on a smaller scale - working for weed removal on Ball Pond. Here is the link: <http://inhabitat.com/baltimores-solar-powered-water-wheel-devours-50000-pounds-of-harbor-trash-every-day/waterwheel-baltimore -24/?extend=1>

- Mark Spellmann is interested in looking into a weed harvester that is currently used in Lake Carmel, NY
  - Discussion ensued about the history of a weed harvester used on Ball Pond. Committee members remember it being labor-intensive, expensive, and challenging to store. There is also an issue about where the harvested weeds are put and the possibility of the chopped up weeds re-rooting back in the lake.
  - Mark Spellmann will go look at the harvester in Lake Carmel and bring information back to the Committee. He was asked to find out if it is run by diesel or gas and if renting it would increase the likelihood of introducing things like zebra mussels into Ball Pond.
- Ball Pond Town Park
  - Gary Mummert and Mark Spellmann worked on the broken fence. Gary Mummert fixed the fences by moving the posts and disconnecting/re-setting the fence. Some community members took the scrap metal away and helped in other ways.
  - Community members are taking turns mowing the property since it is not at the top of the Town's priority list given the many other responsibilities of the Public Works Department.
  - The Community seems to be doing a lot to maintain the property which is seen as a positive thing by the Committee.

#### New Business:

- Report on zebra mussels training
  - Cynthia Stevens attended a DEEP-sponsored training at Sherman Town Hall for people interested in volunteering their time to monitor their local boat launches for the presence of the invasive plants and animals, such as zebra mussels.
    - About 15 people were in attendance; many lifeguards from Candlewood
    - Cynthia Stevens was given a yellow t-shirt advertising the dangers of introducing invasive species to lakes; she plans to wear it while walking around the lake
    - Cynthia Stevens shared some facts from the training:
      - A vinegar combination is one way to safely wash off zebra mussels
      - No boat washing is allowed at state launches
      - People should look under the wheel wells of trailers
      - Zebra mussels can even attach to kayaks and canoes and they can live for a month out of water
      - The suggestion was to be very vigilant; some local lakes are really infested
      - It's important to be diplomatic and engage people in conversation since volunteers really don't have any enforcement power
- *Citizen News* letter
  - Cynthia Stevens shared that Rolf Martin was very supportive of BPAC in a recent Letter to the Editor in the *Citizen News*. He wrote:
 

These are exciting times for Candlewood Lake and Ball Pond in major part because of the people who help maintain these two recreational resources. I was invited to the address the Ball Pond Advisory Committee last month and it was indeed a pleasure to meet committee members and learn about their innovative plans for the future. Delightful, dedicated people every one of them – deep thinkers who are simply fun to meet. (Martin, Rolf. "NF Senior Center Environment Corps and Bear Reality Double Header." *Citizen News* [New Fairfield, CT] 7 May 2014, 1 Letters and Opinions sec.: 14. Print.)
- Carp reports

- Cynthia Stevens reported on some lakes using biological control (i.e., grass carp) to combat hydrilla. Some are using this method in conjunction with herbicides and mechanical harvesting. Cynthia Stevens has copies of the reports for anyone who is interested in reading them.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.; Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander  
Recording Secretary