

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**MINUTES - REVISED**

July 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 10, 2014 in the Town Hall vault workspace.

Vice Chairman Helen Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. George Buck, Terry Lent, Gary Mummert, and Mark Spellmann were in attendance. Cynthia Stevens was not present.

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Mummert made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 regular meeting as revised. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Weed harvesting
  - New England Aquatic Services completed \$500 worth of pink lily pad removal and \$670 worth of diver-assisted suction harvesting at the end of June.
    - Mark Spellmann and Gary Mummert haven't seen any pink water lilies
  - Weeds in general (coontail, milfoil, etc.)
    - All present reported seeing a great deal of weeds in general in certain areas of the lake; George Buck reported that at about 8 feet deep, you can't see surface weeds but his sonar indicates many robust weed beds.
      - The south end is really clear; the northwest end is filled with weeds
    - George Buck said that deep weed beds are good – for fish, lake ecology in general, etc. It's the surface weeds that are the issue.
    - Mark Spellmann may still go to Carmel and look into the harvester, but after the last meeting's discussion it seems like using one on Ball Pond may be more work than it's worth.
    - The group brainstormed about harvesting weeds
      - George Buck said you can accomplish essentially what a harvester does by going out in a pontoon, scooping up the weeds, and off-loading them to a compost pile or some other space.
      - There must be an acceptable place to have the weeds removed to. The Land Trust property (i.e., Hahlawah Preserve) was suggested. Helen Gallagher and Terry Lent will bring up the concept at the next Land Trust meeting for consideration by their members.
      - Discussion ensued about the possibilities of obtaining a pontoon boat and how that would logistically work.
      - Mark Spellmann talked to the NFHS community service coordinator. They were willing to hang flyers and distribute information for the Friends of Ball Pond, so he believes they would probably do that for the BPAC as well if the Committee was interested in enlisting the help of high school students.

- Gary Mummert proposed seriously exploring harvesting because:
  - removing many of the surface weeds will decrease the likelihood of swimmers drowning
  - the bi-products would create rich compost; BPAC could provide the town with some of the compost that it needs for the schools and other properties
- Mark Spellmann suggested discussing action items necessary to make this idea work. The group brainstormed:
  - find a pontoon boat
  - find budget money to hire someone to do the work (Mark Spellmann thinks fundraising through the Friends of Ball Pond could be a possibility)
  - obtain necessary permissions (from the Selectmen? the State? anyone else?)
  - think about where the boat would be stored
  - formulate a list of how it could benefit other people (thereby creating buy-in from the community)
- Helen Gallagher entertained a motion to put “Harvesting Weeds” on the August agenda for further discussion. Gary Mummert made the said motion with the added suggestion that George Buck contact Cynthia Stevens to discuss this prior to the meeting. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.  
Vote 5-0-0

- Other comments: Terry Lent expressed concern about large gravel piles near the Hahlawah property. George Buck thought that it might be Public Works just using that space to store the materials for on-going roadwork projects. Terry Lent will check with the Land Trust folks and then, if necessary, Public Works and will report back at the next meeting.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.; Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.  
Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander  
Recording Secretary