

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**MINUTES**

August 14, 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 conference room.

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

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add "Discussion of BPAC members" to "New Business". Terry Lent made the said motion. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Approval of Minutes:

George Buck made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2014 regular meeting as revised. Gary Mummert seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

Cynthia Stevens reviewed the budget and recent expenditures. The FY14-15 budget contains \$7550 for weed control and \$471 for salaries (total = \$8021)

Bills include \$2,925 to New England Aquatic Services for yellow lily pad removal and \$700 to Mike Coleman for the second weed dive on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Coon Tail
  - Cynthia Stevens recalled reports from Committee members that the coon tail was a mess in July. She reported that New England Aquatic Services had equipment problems and was not able to return in July. They did work on the yellow water lilies though.
- Harvesting Weeds
  - There was a group discussion about the economic prudence of hiring a company to remove weeds.
  - The possibility of acquiring a pontoon boat for use on Ball Pond was revisited. Potential benefits and liabilities were discussed.
    - George Buck suggested that having our own boat and hiring some high school students would be cheaper and more efficient than hiring a company.
    - After a discussion of where the harvested weeds would be put, Helen Gallagher stated that she doesn't believe Land Trust land should be used as a dumping ground for weeds.
    - Mark Spellmann offered to contact a local ecological landscaper who might entertain the idea of hauling the weeds as soon as they are harvested and composting them.

- Gary Mummert asked for clarification about the charter of the Committee (i.e., would a pontoon project be congruent with it). He also expressed concern over the liability issues surrounding hiring students and a supervisor.
- Mark Spellmann raised the issue of where the boat would be moored during the on season and stored during the off season.
- The consensus was that owning and operating a pontoon boat was not feasible.

### New Business:

- Yellow pond lilies
  - Cynthia Stevens reported on following up on the suspicion that Mark Spellmann raised on July 20<sup>th</sup> of pesticides being dumped on yellow pond lilies in the southwest corner of the lake. People from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Pesticide Management Program took samples of water. The results may take another week or so. They will tell what (if anything) was used but not who is responsible.
    - NE Aquatic Services cleaned up the area when they were removing the yellow lilies.
    - Cynthia Stevens wrote an article for the Citizen News upon the suggestion of the DEEP staff about the incident.
  - On another note related to weeds, NE Aquatic Services reported that someone has dumped a large amount of milfoil in the State Boat launch area. Cynthia Stevens called the State and they will send a maintenance crew over to remove it.
- DEEP grant for invasive species
  - Cynthia Stevens approached Mark June-Wells, Ph.D., about writing a grant application for funding that is available to municipalities, through the CT General Assembly, for the control of aquatic invasive species. See [http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&Q=425512&deepNav\\_GID=1641](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&Q=425512&deepNav_GID=1641) for details. Dr. June-Wells is a Limnologist & Plant Ecologist.
  - Cynthia Stevens explained that the purpose of study would be to do a statistical analysis of all of the raw data that have been collected since 1997 with the Ball Pond Carp Project and write a report and a peer-reviewed article. Eurasian milfoil is one targeted species.
  - The working group that has begun discussing this includes Tim Simpkins, Mark June-Wells, George Benson, Cynthia Stevens, George Buck, and Mark Spellmann.
  - Since the grant application needs to be made through municipalities, the working group has to demonstrate what these grant funds would do for New Fairfield as well as for Ball Pond. Cynthia Stevens proposed that the article and analysis would demonstrate New Fairfield's leadership in lake management, it could be helpful to the Candlewood Lake Authority as they consider implementing a similar grass carp project, and it could help Ball Pond to track calcium levels (which are a known indicator of zebra mussels potential) as well as provide insight on using carp to manage coontail.
  - The group brainstormed ways of obtaining the necessary funding to make this grant proposal.
  - George Buck will be making a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on August 28<sup>th</sup> (7:30 p.m., Community Room at the Senior Center). Available Committee members are encouraged to attend the meeting.
  - Since the grant application deadline is quickly approaching, Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to use up to \$3000 from the Weed Control budget line pending the approval of the Selectmen. George Buck made the said motion. Gary Mummert seconded the motion.
    - Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

- Discussion of BPAC members
  - Cynthia Stevens explained that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee can have up to seven members. Anyone can apply to the Selectmen by submitting a letter of intent. Gary Mummert believes that people should be welcomed and encouraged to join. Terry Lent plans to invite an acquaintance of hers to an upcoming meeting with the idea that the woman may be interested in seeking membership on the Committee.
- Mark Spellmann reported that the “No Motors” sign at the boat launch has been removed and that a fisherman using a motor was on the lake this morning. Cynthia Stevens will call the State and get the sign back. George Buck asked that she also inquire about having a port-o-potty at the boat launch as other state launches do.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.; Terry Lent seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander  
Recording Secretary