

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

September 11, 2014

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 in the Town Hall conference room.

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent, Gary Mummert, and Mark Spellmann were in attendance. George Buck was not in attendance.

Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to move “New Business” and “Old Business” to the beginning of the agenda prior to “Approval of Minutes”. Terry Lent made the said motion. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

New Business

- Vice Chair Vacancy
 - Helen Gallagher expressed her desire to step down as Vice Chair of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee.
 - Helen Gallagher made a motion to nominate Gary Mummert as Vice Chair. Terry Lent seconded the motion.
Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)
 - Cynthia Stevens thanked Helen Gallagher for her continued, long-standing service to the Ball Pond Advisory Committee and Gary Mummert for taking on this new leadership role.
- Butterfly Monitoring Station
 - Gary Mummert would like to create a butterfly garden near the north fence of the town park property.
 - Logistics: The garden would be a semi-circle of about 10’ with two types of milkweed and butterfly bushes. There would be a placard explaining that it’s a butterfly garden and a weatherproof stand for people to record when butterflies are sighted.
 - Cynthia Stevens asked if all of the plants would be native. Gary Mummert believes every seed that he has is native, but he will confirm.
 - Mark Spellmann expressed concern that this type of project might need permission from the Parks and Recreation Commission.
 - Cynthia Stevens remarked that this probably falls under the purview of “maintaining the plantings” that BPAC agreed to do when the Park was first cleaned up. She will send an email to Parks and Recreation as a courtesy.
 - Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to endorse the creation of the Butterfly Garden. Mark Spellmann made the said motion. Terry Lent seconded the motion.
Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)
- BPAC members
 - Terry Lent reported on her acquaintance who expressed an interest in joining BPAC. The acquaintance has decided to start by joining the Friends of Ball Pond at this time.

Old Business:

- BPAC response to the State RFP
 - Cynthia Stevens has submitted a response to the State's Request for Proposal. She and Mark June-Wells, Ph.D. spent a great deal of time working on it. Cynthia Stevens believes it's a very tightly written, solid proposal. The decision about who will be awarded grant funds will be made by November 26th at the latest.
 - The goal is for Mark June-Wells to publish the results of his statistical analysis of Ball Pond data in *Lake and Reservoir Management*, a journal published by the North American Lake Management Society. *LRM* issues original, previously unpublished studies relevant to lake and reservoir management.
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the timeline that Mark June-Wells has in mind
 - The Friends of Ball Pond has committed to provide the matching funds to the state grant. (i.e., \$9,250 of the requested grant of \$18,500)
 - At the meeting, Gary Mummert made a financial contribution to the Friends of Ball Pond on behalf of himself and Iris Rainone to be put towards the grant matching funds. BPAC member Mark Spellmann is president of Friends of Ball Pond.
 - The Friends of Ball Pond will be covering the cost of the RFP as part of the match.
- Chemical dump on the south end in July
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that the water quality and plant analysis came back from the DEEP. The plant matter showed evidence of a terrestrial herbicide, but the water did not. The chemical is thought to have dissipated by the time the samples were taken.
 - Mark Spellmann left the meeting at 7:37.
- Coon tail removal
 - New England Aquatics had equipment problems early in July so they could not complete the work they started in June.
 - Though very thick, by the end of July the coon tail had been pounded down by rain so it made no sense to have New England Aquatics come back at that point; but with the heat around Labor Day, the coon tail rose to the surface again.
 - NE Aquatics was asked to resume its work, making pathways through the dense weeds so the carp could better access the infestations at the north end (which was the area most affected by coon tail this year). BPAC undertook this approach as an experiment since one of the residents had been successful with it in front of his lakefront property.

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Mummert made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2014 regular meeting as revised. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

Cynthia Stevens reviewed the budget and recent expenditures. She also reported that there is a Purchase Order for coon tail removal awaiting an invoice (expected to be \$1200).

Public Comment:

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

- Helen Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.; Gary Mummert seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary