

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**Minutes**

November 12, 2015

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 in the Town Hall conference room.

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members Helen Gallagher and George Buck were in attendance. Three members were enough for a quorum since only four people have been reappointed to the Committee so far. The fourth, Gary Mummert, could not attend.

Mark Spellmann, whose request to be reappointed was to be reviewed by the Selectmen that night, arrived at 7:05 p.m. Dave Winslow also has applied to be reappointed.

Approval of Minutes:

It was noted that there was no regular meeting on October 8, 2015 because the Committee members had not yet been reappointed and sworn in by the town clerk.

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015 regular meeting as amended. George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: none

Public comment: none

Old Business:

Ball Pond Town Park

- George Buck felt that the wall which had been inspected by a mason may be something that can be fixed by banging the dislodged rocks back into place and using quick set concrete.
- Cynthia Stevens asked George Buck to inspect the wall when he had a chance to verify if in fact it was possible to fix easily. The wall will be inspected by George Buck in the spring.

Carp Study update

- Cynthia Stevens spoke with Mark June-Wells regarding the status of his draft of an article for a scientific journal. He was waiting for fish data from the DEEP. The draft will probably not be ready in November as originally promised.

New Business:

The BPAC 2016 Meeting Calendar

- The BPAC meetings for 2016 will be on the first Thursday of each month in the Town Hall Conference room at 7 p.m. As usual, there will be no meeting in December. The 2016 meeting dates therefore will be: January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, and November 3.

- Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the BPAC 2016 Meeting Calendar.  
Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion Approved)

#### Water Quality Test

- Cynthia Stevens said the results of the test were very good. There are (3) sites for the test: the Surface Water (1<sup>st</sup> Site) was very good with very little phosphorous. The middle, slightly deeper level (2<sup>nd</sup> Site) showed low phosphorous. The deepest level (3<sup>rd</sup> Site) showed a high level of phosphorous but that is normal and to be expected.
- George Buck asked if the test showed dissolved oxygen rates.
- Cynthia Stevens said the test showed a lot of oxygen at the surface level with less as you go lower, which is to be expected and normal.

#### 2016-2017 Budget

- Cynthia Stevens said there is \$2643 left in the budget; 66% of the original budget has been spent. That number will go down for a salary line item, \$600 for data collection, \$325 for water sampling. There will be \$1235 left in the budget for weed control in June 2016 when pink lilies surface. She felt that \$8000 should be requested for the 2016-2017 budget.
  - Mark Spellman asked if carp would be part of the 2016-2017 budget and it was decided to include them in the weed control line in our proposed budget of \$8,000 which is the same amount that we had this year.
  - Mark Spellmann discussed the need for maps to show where the divers have cut channels. They were provided to Gary Mummert finally on request after the work was done in 2014 in front of the big yellow house at the bottom of Hudson Drive.
  - Cynthia Stevens noted that cutting channels are very labor intensive. However, it was done two years ago at the north end with success. The north end is vastly improved.
  - George Buck noted that deep weed beds that he detected with sonar look like a forest on the bottom of the pond. Carp can feed on those. The floating clumps are a concern. They need to be picked out with a pitch fork.
  - Cynthia Stevens noted that the weed beds need to be controlled by carp. Therefore channels also need to be cut so carp can get to the deep weeds in shallower areas.

#### Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- Cynthia Stevens suggested this be postponed until the January meeting when more members will be present. She will not be at the January meeting but would be happy to continue as Chair.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2016 AT 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Helen Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm; George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary