

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**MINUTES**

May 14, 2015

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 15, 2015 in the Town Hall conference room.

George Buck called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Helen Gallagher, Terry Lent, and Mark Spellmann were also in attendance. Dave Winslow and Gary Mummert were not in attendance. Cynthia Stevens arrived at 7:14.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 regular meeting. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

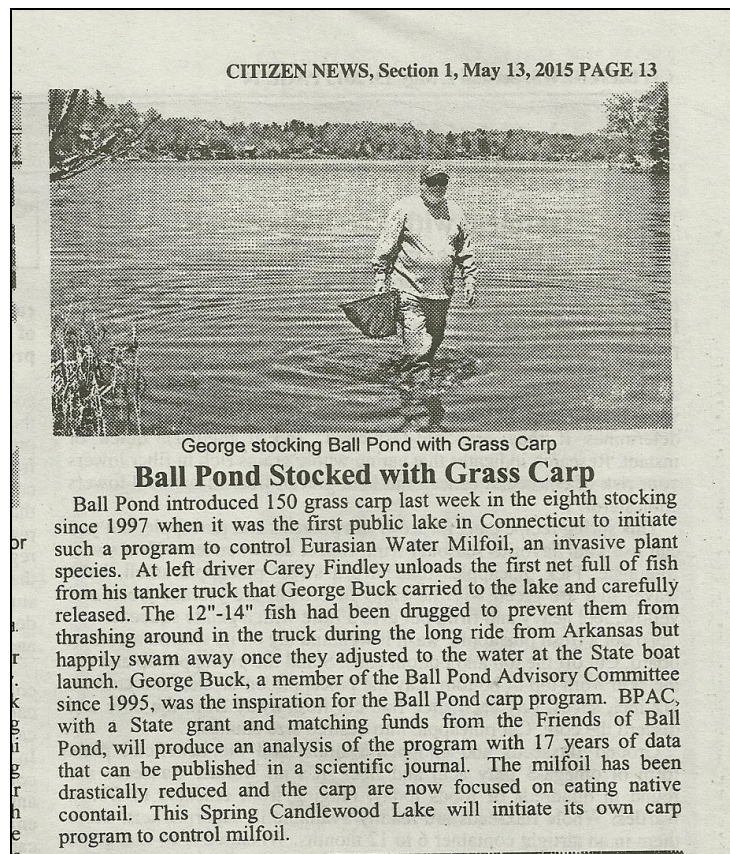
Vote: 3-0-1 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: none

Public Comment: none

Old Business:

- Carp stocking
  - 150 carp were delivered successfully at about noon on Thursday, May 7, 2014
  - All offered thanks to George Buck for being available to meet the truck and accept the carp
  - "Ball Pond Stocked with Grass Carp." Citizen News [New Fairfield] 13 May 2015, sec. 1: 13. Print.



- Carp study
  - Cynthia Stevens reported that she received an update from Mark June-Wells on the progress of the carp study
    - the quality of data is good; the next step is to crunch numbers and perform analyses
    - a first draft of the report should be ready by the end of June or early July; it will be circulated to Ball Pond Advisory Committee members for review
  - Mr. June-Wells asked for carp data as well; Cynthia Stevens gave him the information from the most recent permit which lists all of the carp to date; Mark Spellmann will update the “carpulator” and send it to Cynthia Stevens
  - Peter Aarrestad, Director of the CT Inland Fisheries Division told Mr. June Wells that all of the Ball Pond carp data are on-line as public record (<http://www.ct.gov/deep/site/default.asp>); Cynthia Stevens will contact Peter Aarrestad about accessing the electroshock data as well
- Ball Pond outlet
  - Dave Winslow weighed in on the question of cleaning the grate via an email read by Cynthia Stevens:
 

“I looked at the gate on the pond outlet. While I do not think that the gate is clogging with leaves the fact remains that if the gate gets clogged, the water level in the pond will rise so that the discharge can clear the clog. Over time this can result in a rise in water level. My recommendation is to continue to have the gate cleared on a regular basis to avoid the unlikely scenario of the water level rising due to a clog. It is most likely that the water level in the pond fluctuates due to precipitation and runoff events. Based on my observations I do not think the gate will clog from weeds and leaves as the space between the bars and the velocity of the water is sufficient for leaves to get through. I recommend that we suggest public works do this on a regular basis as it is a town issue. felt it should be opened for cleaning on a regular basis; didn’t believe that the grate would be clogged by leaves; thinks the Town should be responsible for cleaning it out (Public Works)”
  - Gary Mummert (also via email) doesn’t think the grate needs to be cleaned out; if it is, Public Works should do it
  - The State required the grate to prevent the carp from escaping.
  - George Buck offered his thoughts: 1) the grate DOES clog with leaves 2) an important reason that we have the grate is safety (i.e., to prevent children from getting caught in the large pipe) 3) the clog does not raise the height of the lake. He believes the grate should be cleaned and that Ball Pond residents would be more responsive than Public Works (and therefore more useful in a storm).
  - Cleaning the grate is a two-person job; it is absolutely necessary for the person who lifts the grate to stay there until it is put down. Cleaning requires about 1 ½ hours with the grate open
  - The consensus of the group is that it is imperative to have the grate in place to prevent the loss of carp and to maintain public safety.
  - Mark Spellmann made a motion to withdraw his tabled motion from the meeting of April 9, 2015 (i.e., “Mark Spellmann made a motion that the grate should never be removed.”); Terry Lent seconded the motion  
Vote 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

New Business:

- Budget
  - The requested budget for FY15-16 was approved
  - There are insufficient funds remaining in the Ball Pond Advisory Committee FY14-15 for the June weed dive or water testing; Tim Simpkins really wants to see the June weed dive done again this year because there is only one year of data
  - George Buck made a motion not to do the June dive due to budgetary constraints; Terry Lent seconded the motion  
Vote 5-0-0
- Weed control
  - Matt Vogt, from New England Aquatic Services, will be coming to work on weeds shortly
- Candlewood Lake
  - George Buck attended the carp stocking forum at West Conn; about 50-60 people were there ; the Ball Pond Carp Project was referenced several times in the presentations
  - Candlewood Lake will likely be stocking about 4000 carp shortly; when the public comment period is over, permits must be issued, and the carp need to be ordered
  - There are about 20 spots planned for stocking; logistics need to be worked out

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Helen Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. (Mark Spellmann left the meeting at 8:00); Terry Lent seconded the motion.  
Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander  
Recording Secretary