

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

June 11, 2015

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 11, 2015 in the Town Hall conference room.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Mummert made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2015 regular meeting as amended. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: Cynthia Stevens reviewed the remaining budget for FY 2014-15.

Public Comment: none

Old Business:

- Weed update
 - Cynthia Stevens looked at the lake by kayak yesterday; the weeds don't seem as bad as in the past at this time of year
 - Cynthia Stevens will contact Matt Vogt to let him know that we have \$3,311 for weed removal for July 2015 through June 2016.

New Business:

- North American Lake Management Conference report
 - The 2015 conference of the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC-NALMS) was held on May 29th-30th in Burlington, VT; Cynthia Stevens was one of about 75 people to attend. <https://sites.google.com/site/necnalms/> She shared what she learned at the conference.
 - A new invasive species – the spiny water flea – has been introduced to Lake Champlain via the Great Lakes. It is characterized by a long abdominal spine with several barbs which protect it from predators. It is not a threat to humans but could have a serious impact on the ecosystem (i.e., it enters the food chain but is not digestible by higher organisms so they die)
 - Cormorants are very destructive. They've destroyed islands on Lake Champlain by stripping tree branches clean to build their nests and because of the large amount of guano produced by their increasing population.
 - Some species of blue/green algae, or cyanobacteria, are extremely toxic. Cynthia Stevens read a description of the toxic variety and passed around pictures. It can cause rashes, skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions, gastrointestinal upset, and other effects. At high levels, exposure can result in serious illness or death. Cynthia

Stevens suggested that everyone be on the lookout. She will contact Tim Simpkins to determine what kinds of algae are present in Ball Pond.

- There will be guidelines for planting buffer gardens, etc. available on-line soon from the Vermont DEC.
- Cynthia Stevens was excited by the Lake Wise Program in VT: http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/htm/lp_lakewise_what_is_it.htm awards lake-friendly shoreland property. Lake Wise was modeled on the LakeSmart in Maine: <http://mainelakessociety.org/2938-2/>This might be interesting for us to do in New Fairfield, even watershed-wide. Cynthia Stevens will contact Chuck Lee at DEEP to see if he knows of any such a concept in CT.
- The 2016 NEC-NALMS Conference will be held in Massachusetts
- Town Beach
 - Gary Mummert reported that the butterfly garden has been planted. At present, it has about a 6' radius; 10' is approved.
 - Gary Mummert called Public Works to get a trash can on the property; the response was that it is not used enough to justify a trash can
 - Director of Public Works, Bobby Rzasa, said that Gary Mummert can make a proposal to the Park and Rec Commission requesting a trash can.
 - Discussion ensued about who would be responsible for dumping the can, would vandalism be an issue, who would be responsible for providing the can, would posting a sign be better, etc.
 - No consensus was reached on how to proceed; at this point, all just hope that volunteers will continue to pick up the trash or that beach users will clean up after themselves.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30; Gary Mummert seconded the motion.
Vote:5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary