

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

**Minutes**

March 3, 2016

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 3, 2016 in the Town Hall conference room.

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Members Helen Gallagher, Mark Spellmann and Gary Mummert were in attendance. Four members were enough for a quorum. Dave Winslow and George Buck were absent.

Cynthia Stevens reviewed the BPAC Monthly Department Summary. There is \$2105.92 in the BPAC account. After paying George Benson \$600 for his annual weed survey report and \$400 for his work on the manuscript, there will be \$885 left for weed control.

Mark Spellmann proposed that the meeting time, which was to change to 7:15 p.m. starting with the April meeting, be changed back to 7:00 p.m. There was a general consensus amongst the group that the time can be changed back to 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Mummert made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2016 regular meeting as amended. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: none

Public comment: none

Old Business: none

New Business:

BPAC Weed Survey

- The BPAC Weed Survey indicates that there is no milfoil at the transect sites in Ball Pond but considerable coontail.

Carp Stocking

- Cynthia Stevens will submit the Weed Survey to the State of Connecticut requesting to restock carp this year.
- Mark Spellman agreed to double check the number we need that will allow us to keep the inventory at 400 carp, given a 15% attrition rate, and get back to Cynthia.
- Mark Spellmann pointed out that the Carp Study Manuscript prepared by Mark June-Wells, Ph.D. demonstrates that BPAC is not overstocking carp.

## Carp Study Manuscript

- Cynthia Stevens reminded the committee that the report needs to be submitted to the State of Connecticut by the Town of New Fairfield by March 26, 2016. She asked that Committee members provide feedback or comments to her by Tuesday, March 8, 2016.
- Cynthia Stevens mentioned that the Review Committee including herself, Mark Spellmann, Will Henley, George Benson, Timothy Simpkins and Mark June-Wells met and some points needed to be ironed out. Putting that aside, Cynthia is very happy with the manuscript. Some of her comments/suggestions/concerns include:
  - Peter Aarrestad should be considered a co-author of the manuscript.
  - Mark June-Wells indicates (lines 47-48) that the amount of coontail and milfoil was equal in the early years of the study. However, Cynthia remembers the milfoil was dominant and the coontail came in as the milfoil disappeared. There should be clarification of what was in the lake when the study began.
  - There is no mention of the building enclosures that were built to protect against *Najas Guadalupeensis* “species of special concern” as part of the initial experiment with the state.
  - On line 94 naiads are mentioned – carp eat pondweeds and naiads first then on lines 117-120 carps eat palpable weeds first. BPAC found that carp ate milfoil as much as anything else.
  - It should be made clear that stocking carp continued past 2014.
  - There seems to be different numbers mentioned with water clarity. Although water clarity has not been a problem, there needs to be clarification on numbers.
  - The manuscript mentions water quality samplings are taken in June and August. She is not sure that was true every year.
  - The impact of ice cover on the pond is not addressed in the paper.
  - Coontail is not addressed enough. The manuscript indicates carp weren’t eating coontail, but they are.
- Gary Mummert suggested there be an Executive Summary for the Town Selectmen. Mark Spellmann suggested that Cynthia Stevens co-write one with Mark June-Wells.
- Mark Spellmann felt that the manuscript, the Executive Summary, or the Conclusion should provide clarification of where carp would work. Which lakes would benefit from using carp? What are the parameters? How deep does the lake need to be?
- While this manuscript hopefully will be published in scientific journals, Cynthia Stevens will be writing an article in simplified terms for a non-scientific publication. It may take as much as a year to publish the manuscript. Cynthia’s article would print after the manuscript.

### Other Business:

Gary Mummert wants the Town of New Fairfield to recommend to the State of Connecticut that they eliminate the use of herbicides and pesticides to kill weeds along guard rails around Ball Pond.

Mark Spellman made a motion to recommend that the First Selectman contact the State of Connecticut to stop the spraying of herbicides and pesticides to kill the weeds around Ball Pond, adding that private property owners and the Friends of Ball Pond would cut the weeds themselves. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm; Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary