

Ball Pond Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 7, 2016 **(REVISED MAY 5, 2016)**
7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in the Town Hall conference room.

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Members Helen Gallagher, Gary Mummert, Dave Winslow and George Buck were in attendance. Five members were enough for a quorum. Mark Spellmann was absent.

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Mummert made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2016 regular meeting as amended. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: none

Public comment: none

Old Business:

Carp Stocking

- Cynthia Stevens had not yet submitted a request to the State of Connecticut for carp. She wanted to review the request with the committee first to make sure all are in agreement on the quantity to request.
 - As communicated in an email, Mark Spellmann calculated that 56 more carp would maintain the original stocking level of 411 at a 15% attrition rate and 15 carp per vegetated acre. However, in looking at a shift from milfoil to coontail and then allowing 10 years for monitoring, Mark felt we should raise the level of carp to a total of 500 (an increase of 20%).
 - George Buck believes the BPAC has not gained control of the coontail. If it stayed rooted then the BPAC would be in better shape, but it floats in masses. He believes carp should be increased from 15 per vegetated acre to 20 per vegetated acre. There are 27 vegetated acres. Taking the 27 vegetated acres x 20 carp per acre is 540. If the BPAC looks to have 540 total carp less the 411 carp currently in Ball Pond is 129, add 62 (to account for 15% attrition) and you come up with a total of 191 carp the BPAC should request from the State of Connecticut. The number should be rounded off to 200.
- George Buck made a motion to request 200 carp from the State of Connecticut. Gary seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Carp Study

- Cynthia Stevens informed the committee that everything has been submitted for the carp study and the obligations for the grant have been met. The study cost \$19100, of which \$9150 came from the State of Connecticut and \$9950 came from the Friends of Ball Pond.
- There was some confusion regarding payments to George Benson, who has dedicated 17 years to the Carp Study. **An generous anonymous donation was made to the Friends of Ball Pond for \$575 to be given to the** town to compensate George Benson for his efforts. George Benson also owes an invoice for carp analysis and he is owed \$400 for review of the manuscript.
- Cynthia Stevens sent a draft manuscript to First Selectman Susan Chapman with the financial accounting as required by the State grant.
- There have been several revisions to the manuscript. Cynthia Stevens is requesting a meeting of the Manuscript Review Committee to finalize all revisions.
- The findings demonstrate that Grass Carp are an ecologically friendly way to manage weeds in a relatively large northern lake.
- Cynthia Stevens will prepare a simplified version of the manuscript for publication in a lake managers' journal that will have a human interest angle.

Use of Herbicides and Pesticides on Route 39

- Cynthia Stevens and Friends of Ball Pond president Mark Spellmann, who is also a BPAC member, will co-sign a letter to the First Selectman requesting she contact the State Department of Transportation to stop the use of herbicides along Route 39. Homeowners will be encouraged to trim around their properties and Friends of Ball Pond will do trimming where necessary.

New Business

Weed Removal

- Cynthia Stevens advised the committee that after paying George Benson there will only be \$310 left in the account for weed removal in June which could be targeted at pink water lilies.
- Dave Winslow mentioned that the shareholders of the company he works for are offering grants of \$2500 for community-minded projects. He encouraged the BPAC to apply by the deadline of May 6. He will work on the application with Cynthia Stevens.

Gary Mummert made a motion to add a discussion regarding the grate on Ball Pond Brook to the Agenda. George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

The Grate

- Gary Mummert regularly checks on the grate that tends to back up with leaves. He found on 4/6/2016 that the grate was backed up due to someone pushing nearby piles of debris into Ball Pond Brook, clogging the grate, so he cleaned it out. He would like to have the town remove the two piles of debris that exist by the grate so this does not continue to happen.
- Gary Mummert was also concerned about the amount of **debris** in the brook where it forms coming out of the lake. Cynthia Stevens said a dredging project had been contemplated in the past but dismissed because of its expense and complications.
- Cynthia Stevens will request that the town remove the two piles of debris that exist by the grate.
- **A volunteer party to clean up the brook was suggested.**

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Helen Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm; Dave Winslow seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim
Recording Secretary