

## **Ball Pond Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

June 2, 2016

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 2, 2016 in the Town Hall conference room.

#### Call to Order

Chairman Cynthia Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

#### Members in Attendance

Helen Gallagher, Gary Mummert, Mark Spellmann and George Buck were in attendance. Five members are enough for a quorum. Dave Winslow was absent.

#### Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2016:

Cynthia Stevens made an amendment under New Business/Dredging. Matt Vogt is with New England Aquatic Service, not Northeast Aquatic Service.

A motion to accept the Minutes of May 5, 2016, as amended by Cynthia Stevens was made by Gary Mummert. The motion was seconded by Helen Gallagher. The motion passed.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: Cynthia Stevens shared with the committee that the 2016/2017 Budget was approved. There is \$1485 remaining in the 2015/2016 budget. There is \$7470 for weed control, carp, and water quality testing in 2016/2017, and \$495 for salaries.

Public Comment: none

#### New Business:

Weldon Property

- Cynthia Stevens attended the New Fairfield Conservation Inland Wetlands Meeting on May 17, 2016 regarding pending applications to 49 and 50 Ball Pond East by Lisi/agent. The application by the Lisi family to add a handicapped-accessible pavilion and bulkhead was approved. However, they are not approved to move rocks, which would disturb the lake. They are also looking to remove some trees from the parcel where there is currently a house. However, tree removal has not been approved yet. The commission wanted to see the plans for the removal of the trees first. The purchase of the property is contingent upon approval of their plans.

## New Business

### Weed Removal

- Mark Spellmann paddled around Ball Pond and noticed that the weeds look heavier than last year.
- Cynthia Stevens paddled around Ball Pond and noticed that the northern and west side of Ball Pond had algae clinging to coontail, while the southern and eastern sides had no visible weeds.
- Cynthia Stevens met with Matt Vogt of New England Aquatic Services on June 1, 2016 to review satellite images of Ball Pond. The satellite images, from Google Earth, are not in real time. They were taken by a satellite in September of 2015. Matt confirmed Cynthia's observation of heavy weeds in the northern and west side of Ball Pond. Matt had removed some pink water lilies. He proposed that the committee consider continuing with the cutting of pathways from one end of Ball Pond to the other (from North to South or South to North). The pathways approach is intended to entice carp into the masses of weeds. He would provide a map of those cut channels for follow up.
- There is currently \$1485 left in the 2015/2016 budget for weed removal.
- After much discussion, it was decided that priority should be given to surface weeds.
- Mark Spellman made a motion to have New England Aquatic Service remove surface weeds working outwards from the shoreline starting from a depth of four feet of water moving towards the center of Ball Pond, cutting three feet below the surface- starting from the town beach heading north, as the \$1485 2015/2016 budget allows. The committee agreed to assess the results after the first \$1485 is spent. Gary Mummert seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

### Pesticide Spraying on Ball Pond

- Cynthia Stevens spoke with Steve Geddes of the Danbury office of the Department of Transportation. Steve agreed to not spray along the guardrails around Ball Pond as long as the weeds are removed. No maintenance contract was required. Steve was given Mark Spellmann of the Friends of Ball Pond's name for follow up.

### Inland Fisheries

- George Buck mentioned that he has been speaking with Inland Fisheries about revising the schedule currently used to stock trout in Ball Pond. Currently, Ball Pond is closed to fishing in February. The fish are stocked in the pre-season in the beginning of March. Fishing season does not start until April. There is additional stocking during the season in May, then again in the fall for winter fishing. There are several concerns with the pre-season stocking:
  - Hypoxia. Ice is cut to release trout. There isn't enough oxygen and the fish die.
  - The trout migrate to the warmest area in Ball Pond, which is by the boat launch. People come and fish before fishing season starts. There are no trout left by the time fishing season starts.
  - There is also a predation problem. Comrat birds come and eat the fish.
  - It is also more difficult for fisheries to stock three times.

- George Buck is suggesting that trout be stocked in season only- in May and October.
- He is also suggesting that Ball Pond become a Trout Trophy Lake. It would remain open to fishing year round with a restriction of fishermen being allowed to keep one fish of 16 inches or greater.

Adjournment

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary