

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

Minutes

Regular Meeting, Tuesday May 7, 2019

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Gary Mummert called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Members in Attendance

Committee members Gary Mummert (Vice Chair), Mark Spellmann, George Buck and Jim Mellett were present. Pete Viola arrived near the end of the meeting. The meeting was joined by guest Julian Laemmerhirt.

Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2019:

Jim Mellett made a motion to accept the Minutes from April 2, 2019 as ammended. Mark Spellmann seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion passed)

General Correspondence:

Gary Mummert reported there is \$7000 in the 2019/2020 budget for weed control and \$643 for salaries. There is \$4975 in the current 2018/2019 budget, with \$725 encumbered (\$325 for Hydro Technologies and \$400 for George Benson).

OLD BUSINESS:

Ball Pond brook:

Gary Mummert said what he thought was a rock in the middle of the brook is actually roots and moss and the brook is clogged again. George said root balls and siltation narrow the brook. The issue of whether the private land owner or the land trust is responsible for cleaning the brook is still unresolved, according to Gary. George used to clean the brook out with a rake. He said he left a rake there for anyone to use to clean the grate until the rake disappeared. Gary would like to see the land trust help with the clean up. There is a fallen tree on the land trust side of the brook with a root ball near the edge of the water. Gary looked for input on whether the Town should be approached to clean up the brook, if a volunteer effort should be organized, or if BPAC money should be spent to hire someone to do the cleanup? George does not want to see money used to hire someone to do the cleanup. George would like to discuss the cleaning of the brook with the new land owner. Gary suggested he speak with the contractor, who mentioned he could widen the brook.

Detention ponds:

Gary mentioned Joe Reilly did a fantastic job cleaning up the detention pond across from his house. It was Gary's understanding Joe was looking for money to help with the cost of the new plantings. According to George, who had spoken with Tim Simpkins, of New Fairfield's Health Department, the Town has an easement for the detention pond property, which is owned by a homeowner up on the hill. Therefore, the Town should maintain it. Public Works had started

to do some cleanup, before Joe Reilly offered to take over the project. Joe did the work at his own expense, but was hoping to receive some reimbursement for the plantings. According to Mark, he had mentioned the amount of \$3000. Gary has not heard from Cynthia as to whether money in the 2018/2019 under weed control can be used for plantings. If \$3000 is approved, that would still leave \$1250 in the 2018/2019 for use in June, if needed, for weeds or lilies.

Jim Mellett made a motion that \$3000 from the 2018/2019 weed control budget be repurposed to repairing/rebuilding of the detention pond on Ball Pond East by Meadow Brook Road. Mark seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion passed)

NEW BUSINESS

Photo Distribution:

Cynthia Stevens was not at the meeting, but has old photos from Ball Pond to distribute to committee members.

Other Items:

Town Beach:

Mark mentioned he received the checks from the insurance company for damages to the beach. Gary mentioned the plan for the fence is to remove the entire existing 6 foot fence and replace it with a 4 foot black chain link fence. In addition, the second gate at the northern end will be removed. The southern gate will be 10 foot wide (two 5 foot wide gates that can be opened for trucks). The key posts will be set in concrete. Gary also mentioned he is concerned about the retaining wall failing. It has a lean and a bend. It was never set in a footer. He asked if it should be removed? After some discussion regarding the benefits and downside to retaining walls, and possibly rebuilding it in sections with a footer, it was decided that the retaining wall will be monitored and addressed at a later point in time, as it is not failing yet.

Mark also mentioned the Friends of Ball Pond are having a meeting with a barbecue June 1 at Joe Reilly's home.

Adjournment

Pete Viola made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

The next Regular meetings of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee are Tuesday, **June 4, 2019**, followed by **Tuesday, July 2** at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Current members need to send in letters of intent to continue serving past June 31, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Arasim
Recording Secretary