

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

Regular Meeting, Tuesday June 4, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 4, 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 Pete Viola were present. Four members represent a quorum. The meeting was joined by guests Julian Laemmerhirt and Selectman Khris Hall.

**Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2019:**

Mark Spellmann made a motion to accept the Minutes from May 7, 2019. Pete Viola seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion passed)

**General Correspondence:**

Gary Mummert reported \$400 is still showing as encumbered for George Benson. That needs to be corrected. George Benson has already been paid \$600. His purchase order can be closed. Gary also had a memo from the Finance Director asking that the 2018/2019 budget be cleaned up and closed out. Gary will take care of that this week. Whomever is elected as the new chair can sit with Finance to review procedures going forward for the new budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Town Beach progress:**

Mark Spellmann reported three benches have been installed at the Town beach. They are made of recycled plastic and are securely fastened to paving stones. Gary Mummert reported that fencing should be installed soon, but probably not on June 7 (the original date estimated). The billing should be to Friends of Ball Pond.

Gary mentioned he spoke with a gentleman who had been mowing and weed-wacking the beach as a volunteer in the past. He can no longer do the maintenance. A new volunteer is needed. Mark Spellmann offered Friends of Ball Pond to hire someone to do it. Perhaps, if money is available in BPAC's budget they could help with cost. The committee liked the idea.

Mark Spellmann made a motion to appropriate \$100 for lawn/weed clean-up of the Town beach for the month of June. George Buck seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion passed)

### **Boat issues at Town beach and Satterlee Road**

There has been a long history of a boat chained to the fence at the Town beach that sinks. It has been there for over two years and was supposed to be moved a year ago. Gary spoke with Public Works about having the boat removed. Gary's concern is that it is a mosquito-infectious disease generator, plus kids swim there and could get hurt. Gary is trying to locate a survey of the Town beach. The deed for the adjacent property shows 75' of beach. George suggested cutting the chain attached to the boat and pulling the boat onto the shore. The boat will need to be removed when the new fencing is installed.

George Buck mentioned on the north end of Ball Pond is a homemade dock tied to a tree with a paddle boat. Mark Spellmann believes the property in question is part of the Rohan estate, which is still in the family. Selectman Khris Hall said if the dock does not have an Inland Wetlands permit, then it isn't legal. Mark will check with the Rohan's to see if they are aware of the dock, and if it is theirs. He will also touch base with Tim Simpkins of the Health Department to see if a permit was obtained. According to Selectman Hall, Tim can issue a Violation notice if it does not have a permit. George mentioned that if the dock is pulled out (which he offered to do), Public Works could take it away on the back of a truck.

### **Report of Weed observations**

George Buck used sonar on his boat to locate weeds. He could not find any. He saw large groups of carp (50+) eating lily pads. (Lily pads and phragmites are a last resort for carp). He does not want money spent on pink water lily removal. Carp need food. He would like to address his concerns regarding the lack of weeds, which is a phenomenon happening around the State unrelated to the carp, with Inland Fisheries. George thinks it could either be the weeds are diseased, or perhaps there is a weather-related chemical effect of the water. He would like to have Inland Fisheries and an Aquatic Biologist come to Ball Pond. He would take them out on the lake on a sunny, non-windy day so they could inventory carp. Right now, the carp are surviving on algae and the lily pads (which are difficult for them to eat). Pete Viola asked what food could be given to carp, if algae and lily pads get eaten up. George suggested trout chow, alfalfa pellets or even high protein puppy chow. A weed dive is usually done in July. George thinks CT DEEP should be notified of the concerns before then. Mark Spellmann estimated there are probably still around 200 carp in Ball Pond.

### **Phragmites Control for 2019**

There are two detention ponds with a swampy area by the boat launch area. Members of BPAC usually cut the phragmites in the swampy area. George Buck offered to do it. He has a new, heavy-duty weed-whacker. The other area of concern is by Satterlee Road. Mark Spellmann said Friends of Ball Pond usually take care of the phragmites there. They have been successful in getting rid of them. It has taken three years of cutting them to the ground. Cattails have had a chance to establish themselves.

### **Detention system at boat launch:**

Gary Mummert would like to understand who has the responsibility for cleaning out the detention system at the boat launch. It is unclear if they are on Town or State property.

George Buck thinks the detention system may have been put in at the request of BPAC as a way of preventing sediment from entering into Ball Pond. He thinks the Town installed them, not the State. Therefore, the Town must own the property. Selectman Hall suggested Gary Mummert speak with Tim Simpkins. He probably knows. The concern is that when the system is full, sediment ends up building up in Ball Pond. George remembers the Town removing sediment using a special excavator by the development near Joe Reilly's property at one time. Gary would like to see a formal maintenance plan with responsibilities defined put in place for all of the detention ponds around Ball Pond. Selectman Hall encouraged Gary to speak with Russ Loudon of Public Works and Tim Simpkins, and get the detention pond maintenance put on their list.

### **Brook Cleaning**

George Buck said no owner has been at the site of the plot west of the brook. He was able to cut back the tree that had fallen into the brook. It should sprout new growth. In addition, he has no problem trimming back brush in the brook and explaining it afterwards to the new owners. Gary Mummert added the Land Trust wants to focus on cleaning their side of the brook as well.

### **Adjournment**

Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Pete Viola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Next meeting:**

The next Regular meetings of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee are Tuesday, **July 2, 2019** at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Current members (with the exception of Gary Mummert and Pete Viola) need to send in letters of intent to continue serving past July 13, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary