

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting March 2, 2021  
Minutes**

**Zoom meeting participating committee members:**

Mark Spellmann  
George Buck  
Pete Viola  
Elissa Johnson  
Jim Mellett

**Absent:**

Julian Laemmerhirt  
Monica Santos

**Call the Meeting to Order:**

Mark Spellmann called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm

**Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2021**

Pete Viola made a motion to approve the Minutes from February 2, 2021  
Jim Mellett seconded the motion.

**Vote: 4-0-1 (George Buck abstained, Motion passed)**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Correspondence:**

None

**New Items:**

**1. Lifecycle of Lakes article**

- Jim will incorporate feedback from committee members. He is also waiting for the Director of Health on conversion numbers, then a revised version will be sent to the committee. Jim plans to submit to the *Town Tribune*.
- Elissa suggested reducing the article and having a Part 1 and a Part 2. The first article could focus on nutrient levels in fertilizers. Mark and Pete agreed with Elissa.
- Jim will revise title and contents.
- Pete asked what the latest date should be to submit to the newspaper. People will be seeding their lawns shortly, as soon as the snow melts.
- Jim will have a revised version Thursday or Friday. He hopes to submit to the newspaper by Sunday.

**2. Plan for Increased Water Testing Starting in the Spring**

- The committee was hoping to have an update on the boat purchase from Julian, who was unable to attend the meeting. George offered the use of his boats as a Plan B.

- Elissa will speak with the Director of Health regarding a date in April he is available to go out on Ball Pond with committee members and train on taking water samples.

### **3. Watershed Education Strategies**

- Elissa suggested, besides Jim's article, trying various types of educational materials, including newsletters with visuals that can be an 8-1/2" x 11" paper, folded and hand-delivered, door-to-door, or placed in mailboxes.
- Mark will research the Town's bulk mailing account, and whether you can target a specific route using the bulk mail option.
- Mark said Friends of Ball Pond mailed a postcard. Their graphic designer is no longer available. They target postal routes, which seems to be the less expensive option. He is looking for another graphic designer.
- Elissa said the article in the paper and a couple of newsletters are good options (either hand delivered or mailed). She also suggested having Kathy Connelly give a presentation on buffer gardens, or buffer strips, or perhaps do a webinar.
- Elissa also suggested soil testing. Either the committee could collect the samples or have a couple of drop off points for residents in the watershed. She will research the most cost-effective way of handling. Mark said the data gathered from soil testing would be very useful and worth doing. Elissa said it has to be easy for people. Jim said he provided a couple of links for soil testing in last year's essay. Mark suggested getting the word out at the Ball Pond April clean-up. Both Pete and Elissa thought that might be late because people start having their lawns fertilized and seeded in March when the snow melts. George mentioned Jim McAlister used to collect soil test samples at Stop & Shop with volunteers. He may be a good contact. He provides updates on Candlewood Lake invasives and Zebra mussels. He will send those updates to Lisa, who will share with the committee.
- Mark wants to explore having Jim's article shared on the Town's Facebook page and resurrecting the Friends of Ball Pond Facebook page.
- Pete will explore having the information shared on the Town of New Fairfield Uncensored webpage, run by Craig Rosen.
- Mark summarized educational priorities: Soil testing, Jim's article in the newspaper, Mark researching bulk mailing, a graphic artist and Facebook postings.

### **Adjournment**

Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

Pete Viola seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion passed)**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary  
Ball Pond Advisory Committee