

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee  
Virtual Monthly Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, April 6  
7 PM**

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**In attendance:**

Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair)  
Mark Spellmann  
Monica Santos  
Jim Mellett  
George Buck  
Elissa Johnson

Gary Mummert (Guest)

Absent: Pete Viola

**Call the Meeting to Order**

Mr. Laemmerhirt called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

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

Mr. Mellett made a motion to accept the minutes from March 2, 2021

Mr. Spellmann seconded the motion

*Vote: 4-0-2 (Mr. Laemmerhirt and Ms. Santos abstained- Motion passed)*

**Public Comment**

None

**Correspondence**

Town Hall is reopening (May 17, 2021). Committee members were receptive to meeting in-person starting in June.

**Soil testing**

Ms. Johnson said Mr. Spellmann sent out an email and they distributed about 100-130 flyers around the watershed. Ms. Johnson said 7-8 household samples were collected.

**Water Testing**

Water testing will take place April 22 at 10 am. Mr. Buck has offered the use of his boat.

Mr. Laemmerhirt said purchasing the Jon boat has been challenging. There is a backorder on them. Anything he has found as available is cost prohibitive. Mr. Buck added motors are very difficult to get as well. An electric motor may be easier.

Ms. Johnson added that if BPAC receives the research grant it will mean going out in a boat twice a month for four hours each time. Mr. Buck mentioned he does have a second, smaller 14' aluminum boat with an electric motor that the committee could potentially use.

#### **Next steps education/outreach**

Mr. Mellett will share a copy of his essays that went into the *Town Tribune* with committee members. He is adding graphics for the Facebook page. Mr. Spellmann added that he liked Mr. Laemmerhirt's graphics and plans on doing more through Friends of Ball Pond for education and outreach when his schedule lightens.

#### **Joining NALMS**

Ms. Johnson shared a website of the **Connecticut Federation of Lakes** that offers a *Lakesmart program*. You make a pledge to practice managing waste, safe landscaping practices in the watershed, managing rain runoff and more, then you pay \$25 and receive a plaque to display. The committee could possibly purchase 40 of the plaques for households directly on the pond that make the pledge.

Ms. Johnson felt it is important to be a part of a larger effort and organization. It would give the Ball Pond Advisory Committee access to research, grants, legislation, and just help the committee to be better informed.

The other committee members agreed. Ms. Johnson will share links with information and membership fees.

#### **Sewer Study**

Mr. Mellett said a sewer study was done in 2000. Economic Development meets April 12. Money has been allocated for a new sewer study. Some would argue that having a sewer connection is appealing to potential new businesses. There are concerns that a sewer would lower the water table. Most wells are shallow and low yielding. This could be a potential problem.

#### **Town Beach**

Mr. Mummert has asked First Selectman Del Monaco and Mike Gill to contact the State to have the guard rail at the beach repaired.

Mr. Mummert is also concerned about a tree over the butterfly garden. He would be willing to remove branches if someone could provide a ladder and hold it for him. Mr. Laemmerhirt offered to help with a ladder and pole saw. He could also hold the ladder.

There is also an unsightly tree that has fallen that Mr. Mummert would like to see removed, even though it is on private neighboring property.

Mr. Mummert is concerned about a boat leaning against the fence that is filled with 30 to 40 gallons of water. He would like it moved to private property, as it can attract mosquitoes.

The beach is a well-used area. Mr. Mummert feels the town should help with its care, especially for the retaining wall.

Ms. Santos noticed a loose latch and that the gate was flapping. Mr. Mummert felt an adjustment would solve the loose latch and offered to fix it when time allowed.

Mr. Mummert wanted to make sure mowing would still be taken care of this year. Mr. Spellmann indicated it is being done by a volunteer living across the street from the beach. The hope is that he will continue.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Mellett made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm

Mr. Spellmann seconded the motion.

*Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary  
Ball Pond Advisory Committee