

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee  
Virtual Monthly Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
7 PM**

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**In attendance:**

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

**Call the Meeting to Order**

Mr. Spellmann called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

**Approval of Minutes from April 6**

Ms. Johnson requested an amendment to the Minutes from April 6, 2021. Under "Joining NALMS", "The committee could possibly purchase 40 of the plaques for households directly on the pond" should be changed to "subsidize the purchase of plaques for people who want to participate (if need be)"

Mr. Mellett made a motion to accept the minutes from April 6, 2021 as amended.

Ms. Santos seconded the motion.

***Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)***

**Public Comment**

None

**Correspondence**

None

### **Grant Status**

Ms. Johnson said BPAC was awarded the grant from DEEP, but she does not have a contract yet. She is concerned because equipment needs to be purchased as quickly as possible to start the study in June.

Mr. Laemmerhirt said the process involves providing a request to Finance on a requisition, having a purchase order issued by Finance that would be used by the vendor for reimbursement.

Ms. Johnson suggested she purchase the equipment with her credit card for expediency and be reimbursed afterwards when the town receives the money from the grant.

She will provide the numbers to Mr. Laemmerhirt so a requisition and purchase order can be issued by Finance to reimburse her afterwards.

Mr. Spellmann made a motion to have Ms. Johnson spend up to \$3000 on equipment for reimbursement from the DEEP grant.

Ms. Santos seconded the motion.

***Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)***

### **Water Testing**

Mr. Buck and Ms. Johnson performed water testing using Mr. Buck's boat in April with Director of Health, Mr. Simpkins. Hydro Technologies did not have the results of the water testing in time for the May 4, 2021 BPAC meeting. The plan is for BPAC to do monthly testing. Mr. Simpkins will continue to participate for the time being. The lab results will be emailed to both Mr. Simpkins and Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Johnson mentioned there is hypoxia at the bottom of Ball Pond.

Mr. Buck mentioned that it doesn't smell like sulfur yet. However, there is too much pollen in the water so the Secchi test was not as good.

Mr. Buck mentioned he saw green algae at the boat launch. However, it may have been pollen collecting. Mr. Viola saw the same thing by the private beach, but it disappeared so he was not concerned.

Ms. Johnson will share the water test results with the committee when they become available.

### **Joining NALMS and CFL**

Ms. Johnson had shared links with the committee regarding memberships to Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) and North American Lake Management Society (NALMS). CFL costs \$150 per year and includes information on grants, resources and a Lake Smart program that encourages good stewardship of lakefront property owners. NALMS costs \$165 a year and provides valuable published research.

The committee felt the cost to join both organizations was a small investment, would provide valuable information and ideas from what other communities are doing, would offer valuable research that could be included by BPAC in future articles, and ideas on how to create good stewardship with lakefront property owners.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to join both NALMS and CFL for a total cost of \$315 for one-year memberships (\$150 for CFL and \$165 for NALMS).

Mr. Mellett seconded the motion.

***Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)***

### **Next Steps to address nutrient loading from watershed**

Mr. Mellett said he would like to propose an ordinance that stops the application of nitrogen fertilizers. They flow in one direction- downward into the pond. Nantucket has an ordinance. Ms. Johnson added other communities like Lake George do as well.

Mr. Mellett will research existing ordinances. Ms. Johnson added that it is important to educate ourselves on what other communities are doing and to be prepared.

Mr. Spellmann would like to see the results of the water testing first. If the nitrogen level is very high again then there is a compelling reason for stronger action.

### **Yellow Iris removal**

Ms. Johnson removed the Yellow Irises by Ball Pond Brook and Hahlawah Preserve. She questioned if a notice should be sent to private property owners to remove these invasive plants?

Mr. Buck mentioned that by the boat launch if they are in the water, BPAC can remove them. If they are on land, permission is needed from the State. He will email his contact with the State, inform them of the initiative and seek approval to remove them on land and in the water. He will copy BPAC committee members. Ms. Johnson said, in case the State was concerned about the disposal of the invasive plants, she dries them on her lawn, bags them up, then sends them to an authorized facility to be burned.

Mr. Spellmann said he will send an email to Friends of Ball Pond asking them to remove the invasive plants if they are on their property. Ms. Johnson will send photos to Mr. Spellmann (and the committee), to include in his email. Mr. Buck added there are two kinds of invasive irises, the larger Yellow Flag Irises and the smaller blue/purple irises.

### **Soil Test results**

Ms. Johnson said she received a digitized copy of the results. She said everyone's results were the same. Low in nitrates and ammonia, medium to medium high in phosphorous. Potassium was high. Calcium and magnesium were high. The report also included information on what fertilizers you could use. Only a handful of people participated in the soil study.

Mr. Spellmann shared his Soil Nutrient Analysis Report from April, 2020. It showed phosphorous and organic matter are high. That information makes the case that fertilizers are not needed. He would encourage others to do a soil test. They would see the same results.

Mr. Spellmann suggested Mr. Mellett use the findings to write another article.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Spellmann made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm

Mr. Viola seconded the motion.

***Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

Lisa Arasim  
Secretary  
Ball Pond Advisory Committee