

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 6, 2021**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**  
**5:00 PM**

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**Members in Attendance**

Mark Spellmann, George Buck, Elissa Johnson and Pete Viola. Lisa Zustovich took the meeting minutes.

**Call to Order**

Mark Spellmann called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**Public Comment**

Tim Simpkins, Director of Health for the Town of New Fairfield was present and answered questions regarding the water conditions and health of Ball Pond. The Commission discussed with Mr. Simpkins blue green algae, microcystin toxins and anatoxins. Elissa Johnson said she has been in touch with Nancy Leland and that she would be willing to test for anatoxins for them but Ms. Johnson did not know what the cost of that would be. Acceptable levels of microcystin toxins, 8mg/liter discussed, they did not know the acceptable level of anatoxins at the time of this meeting. Discussed monitoring algae and toxins in the pond. Mr. Simpkins said that they can pay West Conn approx. \$900/year to sample toxin levels. If levels were found to be unsafe Mr. Simpkins would shut down the beaches and residents would have to wait for 2 weeks (2 weeks of tests in safe levels) before beaches would be reopened. At this time Mr. Simpkins did not feel that the beaches at Ball Pond needed to be closed but continuous monitoring was important.

Elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll discussed, Tim Simpkins stated that currently they don't have enough data, they have only gone out three times so far.

Ball Pond resident Maureen discussed the Lake Management Plan that was done 20 years ago, Mr. Simpkins said this probably needs to be updated.

There was a discussion that the pond is trending in phosphorus in eutrophic range. It was noted that the water is less clear than it has been in the past.

Lawn fertilizer, septic systems and internal phosphorus load were all discussed as contributing factors. Possible solutions discussed were more frequent septic system pumping for houses on the lake. A conversation ensued regarding being able to mandate this as well as banning lawn fertilizer in the watershed. Buffer gardens were also mentioned as important to protect the pond.

Everyone agreed that educating residents was very important. Different ways to raise awareness discussed such as online-Town website and Facebook, flyers, newsletters, brochures, and emails.

The Commission discussed talking to the First Selectman regarding an ordinance on fertilizer in the watershed.

The Commission and residents present said they would inform Mr. Simpkins of any changes they noted on the pond. Any data on blue/green algae, if there was a bloom, they would let him know

Elissa Johnson stated she felt it is important to monitor anatoxin levels on a regular basis.

Dr. Wong will be collecting water samples tomorrow, monitoring blue/green algae.

### **Current conditions of Ball Pond**

Grant research update (supplies, equipment, boat, results) -Elissa Johnson- no contract from the State yet.

Cyanobacteria, Consider limited Microcystins, & Toxin testing – Previously discussed under public comment

### **Ordinance**

Elissa Johnson made a motion to table this discussion/topic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Buck, all in favor, motion passed 4-0-0.

### **Education**

The Commission discussed the Proposed Lake Management Initiative from Larry Marsicano, Aquatic Ecosystem Research. Also discussed ways to save money if Elissa Johnson collected samples and only sent samples she felt needed to be sent. Discussed collecting samples every 2 weeks

Task 4 of the proposal-Water quality Monitoring Report- assess current data and includes recommendation for mitigation.

Elissa Johnson made a motion to spend \$3000 on the proposal from AER, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Viola, all in favor. **Approved 4-0-0**

Newsletters/Flyers-no discussion

More prominent Zebra mussel signage at boat launch-no discussion

NALMS and Connecticut Federation of Lakes-no discussion

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2021**

Pete Viola made a motion to approve the 6-1-21 meeting minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Buck, all in favor. **Approved 4-0-0**

### **Budget (2020-2021 end June 30, 2021)**

\$7660/20-21 year

### **Adjournment**

Elissa Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Buck, all in favor. Meeting adjourned @ 6:33pm.