

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 3, 2021**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting (Virtual)**  
**7 PM**

**Members Present:**

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

**Calling the Meeting to Order**

Mr. Laemmerhirt called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

**Approval of Minutes from July 6, 2021**

Mr. Spellmann requested that a few items be updated and expanded upon from the July 6, 2021 Minutes:

- The committee voted and approved to spend \$3000 with AER
  - \$2500 for a comprehensive year-end report analyzing the data collected
  - Up to \$500 for algo cell counts (as needed)
  - The motion to approve these items was made by Elissa Johnson and seconded by Pete Viola. The motion passed unanimously
- The committee also voted and approved spending up to \$900 with Western CT State University to test toxin levels
  - The motion was made by Pete Viola and seconded by Elissa Johnson. The motion passed unanimously

**MOTION**

*Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept the Minutes of July 6, 2021 as amended.*

*Ms. Santos seconded the motion.*

**Vote: 4-0-2 (Mr. Mellett and Mr. Laemmerhirt abstained)**

**Correspondence:**

Mr. Laemmerhirt processed two invoices: one for Hydro Technologies for water testing and one for Western CT State University. He believes there is roughly \$7000 left in the budget.

**Public Comment:**

**Public Present:**

Mary Yulo, 11 Arrow Meadow Rd, New Fairfield  
Maureen Dangelo, 59 Ball Pond Rd East

Ms. Dangelo was thankful Mr. Laemmerhirt shared the Lake Management Plan for Ball Pond from 2002. The report had positive impact, as many recommendations within the report were implemented by the

town. The report shared by Mr. Laemmerhirt was not complete. It was parts 3, 4 and 5. Parts 1 and 2 were missing. Ms. Dangelo will contact LanTech and the Planning Commission to see if the rest of the report can be made available. She asked that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee table the discussion at this month's meeting until the committee members had a chance to review the report. In particular, she wanted Ms. Johnson to review the soil information.

Ms. Dangelo and Ms. Yulo also helped with education. They created a flyer and distributed it around Ball Pond. They plan on doing a second one. Ms. Yulo also laminated 50 copies that she shared at the recent Music Festival at the boat launch and in the water. The flyer included the two articles recently written by Ms. Yulo for the Town Tribune.

Ms. Yulo said the Town Tribune has agreed to do a summer series that will include more educational articles on lake management topics. The next article will be on buffer gardens.

Ms. Dangelo also asked that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee advise Inland Wetlands on reviewing/revising their permitting regulations. There was concern over a recently added pavilion by the brook on the east side of Ball Pond, and beach sand.

#### **MOTION**

*Mr. Mellett made a motion to table the agenda item on the Lake Management study so committee members can review it*

*Mr. Spellman seconded the motion*

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

#### **BPAC Organization and Communication**

Ms. Johnson expressed concern and frustration with current communications. She would like to know all members are contributing to agendas, that emails are responded to and that contracts and purchase orders, if the money has been approved by the committee, are processed in a timely manner.

Mr. Laemmerhirt and Mr. Spellmann asked that Ms. Johnson clarify what all of the testing being done is for, and what the goal for the testing is. They asked that she explain it in simple to understand language. Mr. Laemmerhirt said he needed to understand so that he could sign off on the Purchase Order Requisitions.

Ms. Johnson said it is a complex issue, as is the ecosystem. She said the testing is for the following:

- Identifying what types of algae are in the lake, quantifying it and understanding the ramifications of it.
- Fluorometer testing (which needs to be calibrated)
- Toxin testing and/or algo cell counts (which Mr. Simpkins stated is needed for the State). Ms. Johnson has been taking weekly samples to Dr. Wong weekly for microcystin testing. This is helping to create a baseline.
- Monthly Water testing (BPAC owns the equipment) to measure nitrogen, oxygen, and other physical and chemical parameters in the water for one year. Ball Pond is in a eutrophic state.

- She clarified that Hydro Technologies is the lab that does the water sample analysis. Per the contract, AER will review all of the year's data and provide a detailed report including recommendations for management.

The end result- Ms. Johnson wants to make sure the public is safe. Some of the toxins can make people and pets ill. There have been conditions escalating to cyanobacteria algae blooms.

Mr. Spellmann asked that members review Minutes for completeness and accuracy.

#### **New Potential Committee Members:**

Ms. Johnson has two individuals who she believes would make strong additions to the committee. Both are residents of New Fairfield:

- Andre Selino, who has a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science and works in Dr. Wong's lab at Western CT State University. He has done research on area lakes, including Ball Pond.
- David MacAskill, the summer Student Assistant Ms. Johnson has been working with.

Ms. Johnson asked if there would be a conflict of interest, since they are paid or work for Dr. Wong. She also mentioned that Andre may move out west in a couple of years to continue his education.

Mr. Spellmann thought they were excellent candidates and had no concerns about conflict of interest as long as there was transparency. BPAC also allows for remote voting.

Mr. Buck agreed with Mr. Spellmann.

Mr. Mellett also agreed with Mr. Spellmann and suggested they be invited to the next BPAC meeting.

#### **MOTION**

*Mr. Spellmann made a motion to invite the new potential members to the next monthly meeting.*

*Mr. Mellett seconded the motion*

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

#### **Contract for AER**

Mr. Laemmerhirt asked Ms. Johnson to resend the contract to her. He will sign it and send it back to her.

Mr. Spellmann asked that data be fed to AER so that the comprehensive report they are being paid to prepare includes all of the testing being done by BPAC. It should all be in one report. Ms. Johnson will reach out to them and request.

#### **Student Assistant**

Ms. Johnson said the Student Assistant worked for close to 20 hours in June and July but must be paid going forward. She asked for \$451.17.

Mr. Laemmerhirt said there was tax paperwork that needed to be filled out. He will check with the town to see if the Student Assistant can be treated as a contractor.

Mr. Spellmann offered to have the Friends of Ball Pond advance the money if timing was critical. (with approval from his board).

**MOTION**

*Mr. Mellett made a motion to approve up to \$500 pay for the Student Assistant.  
Mr. Spellmann seconded the motion*

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

**Reimbursement Due to Grant Delay**

Ms. Johnson said she has been reimbursed for major purchases but still has about \$500 for miscellaneous expenses. Although she is not in a rush for reimbursement, she wanted to make sure the committee knew there are still additional expenses that have not been covered yet.

**Anatoxins**

Mr. Mellett asked Ms. Johnson what anatoxins are. Ms. Johnson explained they are a neurotoxin produced by freshwater cyanobacteria that can be deadly for dogs.

Mr. Spellmann thanked Ms. Johnson for recommending two new committee members.

BPAC members also decided to keep meetings virtual for the time-being due to the rise in COVID-19 cases.

**MOTION**

*Mr. Spellmann made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 pm.  
Ms. Johnson seconded the motion*

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

Lisa Arasim  
Recording Secretary  
Ball Pond Advisory Committee