

Virtual SPECIAL Meeting November 30, 2021

Minutes

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Others:

Selectman Khris Hall
Board of Health Director Tim Simpkins

MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Spellmann called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2021:

MOTION

Mr. Mellett made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 2, 2021.
Mr. Viola seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (motion passed)

MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2022

Mr. Spellmann asked if the committee would be in favor of keeping the first Tuesday of each month, in person, in the Town Hall conference room.

Mr. Mellett expressed concern over meeting in person in a small conference room when COVID-19 is still prevalent.

Ms. Johnson asked if a larger venue was available for in-person meetings?

Mr. Simpkins mentioned the large room above the senior center. He encouraged the committee to continue with virtual meetings until at least the spring.

Secretary Mrs. Arasim will research if the large room above the senior center for the spring. For now, she will adjust the calendar to reflect virtual meetings for January, February and March of 2022.

MOTION

Mr. Viola made a motion to approve the 2022 Calendar with meeting dates of the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm with January, February and March remaining as virtual meetings.

Mr. Mellett seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (motion passed)

BUDGET

Mr. Spellmann reviewed the line items of the proposed 2022-2023 budget.

Line item # 1 is the Recording Secretary's salary of \$673

Line item # 2 is the Research Assistant's salary of \$700 (remove David's name, as well as Lisa)

Line item # 3 is Water Quality sampling and analysis of \$6542 (7 samplings at \$934 per sampling)

Mr. Spellmann asked Ms. Johnson to elaborate on the \$934 per sampling. She explained that she had volunteered in 2021 to collect water samples and take them to Town Hall for pick up by a lab rep, as well as algae samples. However, she said if it is turned over to AER to do, their equipment is much more advanced. The testing is not apples to apples. AER can test for phycocyanin all the way to the bottom, whereas her equipment can only measure it in the top 3 meters. AER equipment can also measure redox potential which is important in understanding phosphorus release by sediments. There is also high conductivity in the pond. AER's equipment would be able to identify the cause, whether it be from Calcium, chloride, road salt, etc. Testing analysis would be more expensive.

Mr. Simpkins recommended BPAC use AER for water quality sampling and analysis. Otherwise, you are relying on a couple of volunteers. You want consistency. Using AER would provide more parameters and quicker. The town would support it, perhaps from money that was put aside for chemicals in Candlewood Lake.

Line item # 4 is the Rare plant sample. Mark zeroed out the budgeted number. He said the AER Lake Management Plan would address rare plant sampling in its proposal for future recommendations.

Ms. Johnson asked that this be renamed **Aquatic plant survey**. The term "rare" might be misleading to some. The plant survey would include the entire lake, edge and brook. It is necessary for a complete Lake Management Plan. Mr. Simpkins added that it looks at the lateral community and outlets. Ms. Johnson said AER uses GPS and point analysis. She feels it should be put into budget. If it gets kicked out, then remove it. Mr. Spellmann said \$2500 was in budget and \$2500 was based on a grant from DEEP, totaling \$5000. Mr. Spellmann asked Ms. Johnson if she would be willing to apply for the \$2500 grant if the town is asked to spend \$2500? She replied yes.

Line item # 5 is the Water quality and plant trend analysis for \$2000

Line item # 6 is the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan from AER

Line item # 7 was a budget line for cyanobacteria testing by AER.

Mr. Spellmann changed the amount to \$0 because Parks & Recreation is covering the testing.

Mr. Simpkins said Parks & Recreation is doing toxin testing, not cyanobacteria. He said the Selectmen are not compelled to pay for testing for a private beach at Ball Pond. He suggested that BPAC have a contingency plan if it is in the budget. Mr. Spellmann and Mr. Viola corrected Mr. Simpkins. The testing would be at the public beach at Ball Pond that can be used by all residents. People swim and kayak

there. Mr. Simpkins suggested putting it back in the budget and specifying at the meeting with the Selectmen that it is for the public beach.

Ms. Johnson said it is not for cyanobacteria testing. It is for **Microcystin testing at Western Connecticut State University**. Last year BPAC spent \$680 because they started collecting samples late in the year. Ms. Johnson collected the water samples and brought them herself to Western Connecticut State University for testing.

Mr. Mellett added that the Selectmen need to understand the importance of the Microcystin testing. This form of cyanobacteria is very serious. It pulls nitrogen from the air. It kills dogs that swim then lick themselves. It makes humans very ill. It kills fish. It would be calamitous if Ball Pond and Candlewood Lake had this.

Mr. Spellmann will add the **\$800** back into the budget for Microcystin testing at Western CT State University.

Line item # 8 is the Education budget. Mr. Spellmann removed the dollar amount. BPAC will need to research other sources of funding to educate the public.

Line item # 9 is the national memberships for \$165 for the North American Lake Management Society

Line item # 10 is the Outflow Brook maintenance. Mr. Spellmann removed this item from the budget. It will be addressed at a future Inland Wetlands meeting.

Mr. Buck said there has been a transition from having a budget focused on weed management and carp to water quality which takes more time and money. It is appropriate to request the additional funding. The concerns are health-related and more important than coontail and milfoil.

Selectman Hall strongly encouraged BPAC members to be present at the Board of Finance meeting. She believes it will be a tough year for budgets.

MOTION

Mr. Mellett made a motion to approve the proposed 2022-2023 budget for \$18,880.

Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (motion passed)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Mr. Laemmerhirt shared a colorful educational postcard with the committee. It is a draft. He needs verbiage to complete it. Mr. Spellmann said the postal routes used for mailing postcards in the past reached 1600 households for \$300 in postal costs. Mr. Laemmerhirt will email the draft to committee members and research printing and mailing costs. He suggested mailing it in the early spring when people start to treat their lawns with fertilizers.

ELECTIONS FOR 2022

Mr. Spellmann deferred this to the first meeting of 2022.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR 2022

Mr. Spellmann deferred this to the first meeting of 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Spellmann said all payments have been processed to all vendors. Mr. Viola has been picking up the mail. Mr. Spellmann has been handling communications via email with the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Selectman Hall explained the budget process. The Board of Selectmen meet with committees throughout January. In February the Board of Selectmen review proposed budgets and make recommendations. In mid-February, the budget goes to the Board of Finance. While the Board of Finance does not meet with each committee, they do attend some of the Board of Selectmen meetings when committees are presenting their budgets.

On the first Saturday of March is the kickoff of the proposed town budget.

Mr. Mellett said he was unable to have ordinance information for this meeting but will for 2022. He is giving a virtual lecture at the Senior Center on December 16 at 1 pm. He will share the link with interested committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Mr. Viola made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 pm.

Ms. Santos seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (motion passed)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim

Lisa Arasim
Secretary
Ball Pond Advisory Committee