

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

BPAC SPECIAL Meeting (Virtual)

Time: Jan 17, 2022 07:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Elissa Johnson (Chair)

Jim Mellett

Monica Santos

George Buck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Pete Viola

Julian Laemmerhirt

MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Johnson received an invoice from AER for \$2500, as per their contract, which she submitted for payment leaving a balance of \$2845 in the budget

ELECTION OF NEW VICE CHAIR

With the resignation of Mark Spellmann, BPAC needed to elect a new Vice Chair

MOTION

Mr. Mellett made a motion to nominate Monica Santos for the position of Vice Chair. He noted it did not require a second to the motion, as per Robert's Rules.

Ms. Johnson said there had been concerns expressed in the previous meeting regarding Ms. Santos's availability to run a meeting if Ms. Johnson is unavailable. Ms. Santos's availability is only affected temporarily during the current semester of school. Ms. Johnson has not, nor does she intend, to miss meetings. In addition, per her understanding of Robert's Rules, if she and Ms. Santos are unavailable, as long as there is a quorum, Lisa or the committee can nominate a Chair Pro Tem for the meeting.

Ms. Santos offered that if elected, in addition to running meetings if Ms. Johnson is unavailable, she would also help with administrative and logistical functions. In her role as Project Manager she is used to working as part of a team and would be Ms. Johnson's right-hand person. Ms. Johnson would be able to focus on the needs of Ball Pond.

Vote: 4-0-0 (motion passed)

MISSION STATEMENT FOR BPAC

First Selectman Patricia Del Monaco has requested a Mission Statement from BPAC. After much discussion, the committee proposed the following Mission Statement

The Ball Pond Advisory Committee closely monitors the water quality and living community comprising Ball Pond, applying best lake management practices, and encouraging good stewardship of the lake, to ensure the health of the lake for current and future generations, as well as for the wildlife that relies upon it.

MOTION

Mr. Mellett made a motion to adopt the revised Mission Statement, as written above.

Ms. Santos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (motion passed)

CURRENT GOALS

The committee discussed current goals of the Mission Statement.

1. Develop a lake management plan to reduce nutrient loading and minimize cyanobacteria populations, thus avoiding harmful blooms.
2. Monitor/manage current and potential invasive species.
3. Monitor/manage the Grass Carp program.
4. Educate the community about good lake stewardship.

MOTION

Ms. Santos made a motion to adopt the Current Goals, as written above.

Mr. Mellett seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (motion passed)

Ms. Johnson reminded the committee the Mission Statement and Goals need to be approved by the Selectmen then added to the website by the web master.

REVIEW OF 2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen approved the following:

Approved:

1. Salaries \$686 (Recording Secretary)
2. Water quality sampling and analysis \$6542
3. Western CT State University cyanobacteria testing \$800 (may get moved to a different budget)
4. National Membership \$165

Eliminated:

1. Research Assistant Stipend \$700 (covered under past grant contract)

Covered under the Lake Studies Fund (one time money from existing funds):

1. Lake Plant Survey \$2500
2. Water quality and plants trend analysis \$2000
3. Comprehensive report and Lake Management plan from AER \$5500

Still in 2022 Budget: \$8193

Covered under Lake Studies Plan \$10,000

POTENTIAL GRANT

First Selectman Patricia Del Monaco requested that Ms. Johnson apply for a grant to try to cover the \$2500 (actually \$3000) Lake Plant Survey which is in the AER proposal (currently to be funded under the \$10,000 funding from the Lake Studies plan as outlined above). It falls within the new call for Aquatic Species grants, which is what BPAC received last year for cyanobacteria. The town match for the grant would be more than covered under the remaining \$7500 of the \$10,000 funding from the Lake Studies plan as outlined above. The grant requires a 25% match. The study is important in determining potential invasive emergents, and for putting together the lake management plan.

Ms. Santos asked if other grants may be available from private sources like the sportsmen that use Ball Pond for fishing. Mr. Buck said BPAC has received tremendous support from the Bureau of Natural Resources and CT DEEP, who stock nearly 3000 trout a year in Ball Pond and every two to three years they come with a big boat and shock Ball Pond. There is also the grass carp project. They have invested a lot of resources in Ball Pond. The water quality data gets sent to the State. They are a partner. He felt private organizations, like CT Fishermen.com and Bass Fishermen.net, have slush funds, but those funds are used for their own organizations.

Ms. Johnson asked that everyone keep their eyes open for additional grants.

ADDITION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Mellett was interested in adding two alternates in addition to the seven regular committee members. Ms. Johnson will research whether BPAC can write or alter their bylaws, since BPAC operates under the Board of Selectmen's umbrella. This would fall under those new/revised bylaws.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Mr. Mellett made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm.

Ms. Santos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (motion passed)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim

Lisa Arasim
Recording Secretary
Ball Pond Advisory Committee