

Ball Pond Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2022 7:00 pm  
Senior Center Community Room; Jim Mellett on via facetime

Mission: 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 by the watershed community, to ensure the health of the lake for current and future generations, as well as for the wildlife that relies upon it.

Members: Peter Viola, Mary Yulo, Jullian Laemmerhirt, George Buck, Jim Mellett, Monica Santos,

Meeting Agenda:

Attendees: Mary Yulo, George Buck, Jim Mellet, Monica Santos

1. Call to Order 7:11 Mary Yulo, motioned, George Buck 2nd and all in favor unanimously
2. Approval of minutes from June 6 - George Buck motion to approved, Mary second, All approved unanimously

3. AER Summaries Report April, May, June - George

April, May and June testing has been done. There is a summary report available for the committee members.

April & May was similar in data from testing to what we've seen in previous Mays (April wasn't done historically)

Larry's testing provides for testing samples through a mesh net of the various Cyanobacteria, algae, etc. There are 27 categories that he is testing against.

There is Cyanobacteria - but not in any level of concern

June 15th testing - differed, climate and seasonal changes are settling in. The testing showed that the levels are moving from Level 1 in April, May toward the Category 2 Level. There was a small algal bloom in the sound end of the lake, a few feet long and wide ... "were comprised of 21 general distributed among seven taxonomic groups including the green algae, Cyanobacteria, golden algae, diatoms, and several others. Total number of Cyanobacteria genera observed was five. Several other algae taxonomic groups were represented by one of two genera." "One of the genera from the Chlorophyta observed in the plankton net sample and concentrated whole water ample was closterium spp. Cells were solitary (not in colony), large and thin. Closterium spp. comprised approximately 2% of total cells but because of their size, were more important that 2% on a bio volume basis."

George stated that Thermocline is pretty good. Our most sensitive trout are the brook trout that are stocked in beginning of March/May. Fisherman caught fish during the winter which requires good nutrients and conditions to live through the changes in seasons. The stratifying is happening, large and the thermocline is healthy. For a glacial lake we are in a good condition.

We have July and August coming and the climate during those months will need to also need to be monitored/tested.

The reason there are so few weeds is partly due to the cold wet springs where the weeds don't grow and the carp get them cleaned out quickly.

Jim M - in agreement with George about the ups and downs and the microbial life will change accordingly.

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Prevailing winds come from the west.

The July testing has not been scheduled, but should be around July 15th.

4. Correspondence - Monica, no incoming correspondence to the BPAC.

5. Education Update - Mary

Mary shared slideshow and handout from the FBP put together by Jane Didona at the annual FBP membership meeting in June attended by 60 community members. Jane is owner of Didona landscape firm in Danbury.

Mary mentioned the correspondence from Larry that encourages residents to make detailed notes when they think they see a bloom happening and she will pull together an educational piece for the residents.

During the summer meeting of FBP Mary wrote about the BPAC water testing reports for April/May. She will include the upcoming reports for June and possibly the July reports during a second summer newsletter in August.

During FBP music festival on the 7 docks we include a couple of moments to educate about the health of the water, watershed and awareness.

Separate educational piece will be physically distributed.

6. Glyphosate spraying and road salts follow up - Monica

Gary is moving forward with contacting land owners and clean up around BP. and The last land owner at 137, Ms. Rohan, responded over July 4th weekend about access to their property for clean up to be done along the guardrail as necessary. Monica noted that Gary has an update on the state's position for spraying but she hasn't gotten that update and will contact Gary for any spraying intended to be done by the state.

An aside:: George's feeling is that any of the glyphosate spraying along the road way will kill the vegetation and roots - and has question if the spraying killed a lot of weeds in and around the water's edge. Jim said also that all lawn servicing of fertilizers and weed killers are also being washed in. 90% of genetically engineered plants are glyphosate resistant.

7. New Business - Ball Pond drainage

There was a town meeting referencing Ball Pond drainage. Which in fact is erosion that is going into Putnam Lake. George feels that this is something that really requires attention from the town given the seriousness of the run off going into those communities. Motion by George Buck is: to have the BPAC support the use of ARPA funds for solution in the erosion problem in the Ball Pond estates community as described in the town announcement for ARPA funds. Jim Mellet seconded the motion. All in favor unanimous.

There was a very bad vehicle accident this week that took out the fence at the community beach. Mary said that FBP has the insurance for that fence and has filed a claim.

Noted that FBP may also want to join BPAC's endorsement.

8. Public Comment (as time allows) - none

9. Adjournment, Motion to adjourn 8:14 by Mary, seconded by George. All in favor unanimous