

Senior Center Community Room; will bring 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.

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

Public: Maureen Dangelo

1. Call to Order - 7:09, Mary Yulo, in favor unanimous
  2. Approval of minutes from July 5 - move to accept Jim, 2nd Mary, unanimous from those present
  3. Correspondence - Monica gained access to the BPAC email last Friday and will monitor that going forward. Pete noted the mailbox in town hall is empty.
  4. Education Update - there have been 3 documented cyanobacteria/blue-green algae blooms on the pond so far this season , all localized, and two were "pea soup" type without skim on the surface. One was classic blue-green, paint-like skim on surface.
    - Larry suggested we alert the community, that the turquoise skim is not the only thing to be concerned with. Look for green cloudy water ("pea soup") and avoid as well.
    - Mary and Maureen Dangelo made up a flyer and delivered over 200 around the lake and the neighboring streets. The flyer gave info about identifying and avoiding algae blooms.
    - An electronic copy was shared with Mark Spellmann to share with FOBP.
    - Laminated copies were put in Hallawah and the boat launch. As well as, person to person contact with people walking, paddling on the pond.
    - Pete said he would take copies and share with the BPE neighborhood
    - Next steps is to gain access to and post on FB and the FOBP
    - Mary will contact TH newsletter to include in the next publication
  5. Weed disappearance in the pond
    - We will discuss in new business.
  6. WESTCONN report on Microcystin ppb
    - Ball Pond July 27th is at 0.372, July 20th 0.366, July 13th 0.405, July 6th 0.423
  7. AER July report review
- George mentioned:
- The recent report shows the blue green algae was at a lower depth than expected. Though that is not unusual. George's opinion is that the water was decent for this time of year. The dissolved oxygen had progressively gotten worse and sulphuric can be smelled and will last until fall turnover.
  - Respectable thermocline
  - Sonar readings show that the zoo plankton and alewife herring in the thermocline area. The bigger fish are below thermocline and come toward surface in the evenings.
  - Mary: noted that Larry shared that the Cyanobacteria when they went out in June the levels were 92% cells in upper level were Cyanobacteria in July they were at 22% . The state uses the following method for evaluating concerns: level 1 the water is fine, 2 warnings of bacteria levels, 3 beaches and water to be closed by state. Microsystems is the testing methodology.

- Mary noted that the Cyanobacteria can be at different levels in different areas around the lake.
  - George mentioned that DEEP may put the Cyanobacteria flyer on the bulletin board. George will reach out to DEEP to recommend that the bulletin be added on the bulletin board.
  - BPAC will reach out to AER and ask for a summary of his report findings.
8. Derelict dock - Gary Mummert has brought to BPAC attention a dock that is falling apart and would like the owners to be contacted and removed from the water. Pete said he could contact the Perry family to coordinate a time that can be coordinated with volunteers, Pete and George to remove the dock. And suggest that the barrels can be removed by the Perry's.
9. Glyphosate spraying and road salts follow up -
- Jim has been in touch with Larry M about the glyphosate causing weed die off. Larry suggested it may be pathogens that are to blame for the weed die off. Larry thought we may want to send in samples of the water in BP to send to a lab in Newtown.
10. New Business
- All local bodies of water are reporting that weeds are not returning.
  - George has spoken to Greg Bugee at the CT specialty of aquatic weeds, etc., CLA Neil Stalter environmental. The Chesapeake Bay had a catastrophic crash of aquatic plants in 20XX; insects do not grow quickly enough. There was never a cause identified but the thought is that it was a virus. George has asked Greg and Neil to .
  - The 2020 document on CWL showed most robust milfoil in last 20 years and this was still robust in 2021. A pattern similar to BP. This year 2022 the rooted plants started coming up and then started dying off.
  - The grass carp 15/ vegetative acre based on weeds going to the surface in 10ft of water. The equation and restocking is not valid if there is something else in the water.
  - Larry, Greg and Neil found a star grass which is a homographic that exudes a chemical to block out other plants in the area and kills milfoil. However, it isn't suggesting that stargrass was killing off the milfoil, since there wasn't a large amount of stargrass.
  - In BP Coontails took over the milfoil; coontails after that started to collapse and die. When the CT collapsed there wasn't a species to take over. The same thing started in Squantz Pond that the milfoil was starting to die and lost all their weeds two years prior to CWL.
  - But the coontails and stargrass can't act fast enough to make a catastrophic change to the weeds.
  - DEEP is very focused on CWL and BP weed loss. Weed loss over about six years will cause loss of fish in the water by 33%. This is not the kind of loss we are currently experiencing. There are still species of fry and spawning has been noted. CWL has glaciated lake for the fry and will provide protection for the fish.
11. Public Comment - Maureen was present and noted that the swimming has been very good this year and hasn't experienced any adverse sightings or reactions to the lake water.
- Adjournment 8:20 motion by George, 2nd by Pete and in favor unanimous

Received by email on 09/07/2022 @ 12:12 p.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield