

Meeting Notes from September 6, 2022

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 -Called to order 7:08

2. Approval of minutes from August 2

Motion to approve 7:09 Mary Yulo, 2nd Pete Viola

Monica to confirm that the minutes were forwarded to TH for August because they are not online

3. Correspondence - none

4. Education Update

- There is a September newsletter for publication put together by Mary and Maureen. (Newsletter sent out to FBP email distribution list)
- Pete can ask at Town Hall where the AER reports can be posted for public access.
- Posts re: algal blooms have been made to the social media websites: NextDoor, Facebook
- Mary is speaking with Dr. Ed Wong, and visited his lab, to review the analysis process from West Conn (WCSU) about the water sampling.
- George asked if Dr. Wong and AER were sharing reports; Mary will check with both of them to see if they are sharing reports with each other.
- George mentioned that the Chesapeake Bay brackish/fresh water areas with milfoil in the area of 500,000 acres in the watershed and overnight it was gone. There were no grass carp or chemicals blamed for this disappearance. There were two named diseases (couldn't recall the name) but it was identified as pathogenic.
- Mary mentioned that her last newsletter for the year will be in October (and take a break until next year again).
- Candlewood lake has reported no milfoil or coontail. They found elodia. And starwort weeds.
- The 15 grass carp per acre has been adopted throughout the country. Published by Mark June-Wells.

5. August water testing

- Visibility is 3 meters and still at a level 1. Algae (cyanobacteria) remains low (deep?) in the water column
- AER still puts us well below the level of concern for microcystin.
- AER testing for September is the 14th.
- Monica mentioned having Larry and Dr. Wong presenting to the group meeting.

6. AER project projections

- Where do the reports get filed in Town Hall for people to access?
- May be good idea to ask AER for 2023 proposal for a weed study, 7 month water quality testing

Some things to think about:

How will we use BPAC budget for this next cycle?

Will we ask AER continue to do water testing next year?

7. Derelict dock update - it has been dismantled and removed from the lake supported by George Buck, Gary Mummert and Pete Viola.

8. Glyphosate spraying and road salts update - Gary has been managing this and speaking with state rep Pat Callahan to maintain the No Spray zone.

9. New Business -

- Outlet brook has been cleaned of terrestrial plants spearheaded by Gary Mummert and Mrs. Lisi. Brook has water again and is moving back toward the pond. The water table in the bank will percolate to the areas around the pond and fill first which then brings the water level back down. It's estimated the pond was down 10-12 inches with the lack of rain this summer.

- Holes in the Town Park where the fence posts were seem dangerous - we may want to bring it to the town's attention. - Mary is going to email Gary Mummert and see next steps.

- Town is cleaning the sediment trap on White Birch due to the build up that was proved by the Ball Pond pumper truck.

10. Public Comment (as time allows)

- Maureen noted that she has seen the article in the Town Tribune about the Candlewood Lake weeds.

- Budgetary

- question about the funds for AER - the budget for that was for the AER project.

- Was there a \$3k project funded in 2022/23 what is included. Monica will check with Elissa to see where the microscope is and what can happen with the microscope and bring to Tim Simpkins that and will it help fund AER and volunteer efforts.

11. Adjournment - 8:25 motioned by Pete, seconded by George

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