

THE BALL POND ADVISORY COMMISSION

Town of New Fairfield
New, Fairfield, CT 06812

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Community Room @ 33 Route 37
New Fairfield Conference Room
New Fairfield CT

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: Monica Santos (chairman), Pete Viola, James Mellett (phone), Mary Yulo, Julian Lammerhirt (absent), George Buck (absent), Anthony Nunes (alternate-absent)

Guest(s): Frank Yulo

1. **Call to Order** – Monica Santos called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm
2. **Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting on January 10, 2023** – Pete Viola made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Special Meeting. Mary Yulo seconded the motion. **All in favor**
3. **Welcome and introduction of Dana Ulibarri as recording secretary for the committee** – Dana Ulibarri introduced herself.
4. **Review of Grant from 2022** – Mary Yulo read the entire grant and stated that it has to do with the grant survey. Mary reached out to Matt and she will touch base with him in the next couple of weeks. She will find out the process and get signatures before the next meeting.
5. **Review of current budget status PO for water management plan and payment to AER** – Monica Santos had a PO for water management. As far as she is aware the BPAC is up-to-date on all outstanding payments. After going over the PO she realized that it had already been approved for payment, no further action needed on this PO.
6. **Confirmation of payments to WCSU for summer 2022 water testing** - Mary Yulo questioned the payment for West Conn. Monica verified that it was paid to Western Connecticut State University.
7. **Discuss alternates for the committee** – Frank Yulo was present at the meeting and is interested in becoming an alternate. Due to inaction Anthony Nunes will be removed as an alternate. There should be 7 board members and 2 alternates on the committee.

- 8. Earth Day participation with town** – Monica Santos received an email from Jean Green for Earth Day on April 27, 2023 with the current schedule. Jean was inquiring on BPAC participation. Mary stated she will be there if Friends of Ball Pond is there. Monica will let Jean know that the BPAC will not have a booth but will be participating on different levels.
- 9. Update from FOBP** – Mary Yulo stated that FOBP had a meeting about a proposed lake walkway. There is Phase 1 of a feasibility study in process where the walkway is proposed to be at the lake side on the north end. It would be a five-foot-wide elevated boardwalk that will go along the lake side. The next part of the grant application is due in March that will include surveys and has a committee. Mary was asked to answer all questions regarding education. The boardwalk could have placards with QR codes to access additional information and facts about the lake. A discussion was held on where townspeople currently walk, run, and bike. The mission of FOBP is partly to educate the community, stewardship, and mobilize resources. A discussion was held on current access for those that live in certain areas on Ball Pond and if the access will have to be updated and/or changed.
- 10. Public Comment** - none
- 11. New Business: Discuss future meeting options: in-person or zoom -there is not a hybrid option at this time** – Monica Santos stated that the preference for the committee is to stay in-person and would be interested in hybrid once it is an option.
- 12. New Business: Salt/ calcium spray around the pond** – Julian Lammerhirt added this to the agenda. A previous inquiry was made there wasn't anything that came back that was of concern or a build-up of salt. There isn't a final analysis that has been received and will be looked into after the winter season. The water sampling is done in the summer months. A database over time would be an idea for the future. Pete Viola said that on Earth Day there is water sampling that is being done. The water will need to be in mason jars, just a few ounces is all that is needed, one sample for each month. James Mellett said the fee would be around \$60 per sample. Monica Santos will check with Larry. A discussion was held on the fee and how to fund it. Ideas were by donations, possibly free, or FOBP. Acro-Environmental which is now Brawley Consulting Group LLC does the water testing.
- 13. New Business: Support for walkway around Ball Pond** – Mary Yulo read a letter received (see attachment) requesting that the BPAC write a letter of support for the walkway project.
James Mellett made a motion to approve sending the support letter from the BPAC for the walkway. Pete Viola seconded the motion. **All in favor**
Monica Santos will send the support letter on BPAC letterhead.
- 14. Adjournment** – Pete Viola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. Mary Yulo seconded the motion. **All in favor**

Attachment

January 27, 2023

Dear D.E.E.P Representative,

I am writing in support of the Friends of Ball Pond grant application that would fund the construction of a walkway around a segment of the north side of Ball Pond. I am the president of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee. We are a municipal committee that the New Fairfield Board of Selectman on issues affecting Ball Pond and the Ball Pond Community.

A pedestrian walkway will enable our community walkers to safely enjoy walking around our beloved Ball Pond. Currently, pedestrians must navigate a dangerous stretch of State Highway 39 that is characterized by very limited road shoulders and limited sight lines. The proposed walkway will enable pedestrians to safely stroll our north shore and encounter educational materials suitably placed along the pathway.

We have long history of warm partnership with Friends of Ball Pond. We strongly support their leadership in obtaining this grant to fund a project our community urgently needs.

Thank you,

Monica Santos
Chairman
Ball Pond Advisory Committee