

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
June 6, 2023, at 7:00 pm
Senior Center Community Room

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.

In attendance: Committee Members: George Buck, Mary Yulo, Monica Santos, Jim Mellett, Pete Viola

Alternate Committee Members: Frank Yulo

Members of the Public Present: Maureen Dangelo

1. Call to Order- 7:02

2. Approval of May 2, 2023, meeting minutes- Monica asks about any issues with the minutes, and Mary notes yes, but it had been revised.

-Pete motions; Mary 2nds. All in favor to approve. Motion passes with abstention (Pete, who was not present at the meeting).

3. Welcome Alexis- Monica welcomes Alexis and discusses the connections within the town that have been made and those that need to be made.

-Jim asks about stationary, Monica forgot.

-Jim intends to draft a letter to the state, inquiring about the use of calcium chloride, rather than sodium chloride, around bodies of water.

4. Update from FOBP -Mary states that the primary agenda of the last meeting was preparing for upcoming Annual Meeting (June 10th).

-Mary explained about the guest, Cynthia Rubinowitz, of the North Western Conservation District, who will be speaking at the next meeting; she will be discussing the organization, invasive species, vegetation, and providing practical advice to people around the watershed.

-Mary and other members present discussed the music concert that is held annually, and budgeting for signage on every dock, each with an environmental message.

-Mary mentions zebra mussels and the methods of preventing the spread of them to freshwater.

-Mary suggests putting messages about road salt, pesticide spraying, and clover planting on aforementioned music festival signs.

5. Water sampling schedule -Sampling will take place the 14th of June, with the 15th being the rain date.

6. Larry's Report- Reviewed report.

-Larry's report indicates a typical May. No cyanobacteria, thermocline setting up as normal, and normal oxygen content; the water is also very clean, considering the high pollen.

-Invoice was received, and has since gone to Greg and been paid.

-The phosphorus locking method was discussed, but the process is very expensive, in the hundreds of thousands range; and would be an undertaking of the same magnitude as the Grass Carp project.

7. Floating Raft- George brought to the attention of the board, a free-floating raft that was reported around Memorial Day.

-Board members intend to find out whom it belongs to and talk to them. It appears to have come from the second house on the west shore; same wood and same age, and looks like it could've just gotten loose and floated away.

-The board discusses the danger of simply cutting it up and having Public Works take it away, as the owner could potentially complain to town and demand compensation.

-George intends to go out on his rowboat and get a closer look at it, to see if he can determine where it came from.

8. 2022 Grant status- Grant paperwork is done. No word from DEEP requiring further information from BPAC.

9. WestConn status- No board member has heard from Doctor Wong regarding collaboration for this year.

10. Road salts and weed spray along Rt 39- Roundup weedkiller is what is currently being used.

-Julian is working with the town to remove weeds and not spray on north end. As well as setting up a letter to pondside neighbors by the end of week, and cleaning up unkept guardrails next week.

-The impact of glyphosate on aquatic organisms is called into question.

11. Community Bloom Watch - Julian has yet to update the board.

12. New Business -Monica reminds the board of upcoming membership renewal; all members need to send their renewal to town hall before July 13th.

13. Public comment- Maureen queries about the cyanobacteria levels in regards to the levels observed the previous year, and if it is an indicator of anything.

-Mary says the bacteria is below lowest threshold.

14. Adjournment- Pete makes motion; George 2nds. All in favor to approve. Motion passes.