

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
August 1, 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, Jim Mellett, Monica Santos

Alternate Committee Members: Frank Yulo

Members of the public: Maureen Dangelo, Tim Simpkins (by phone)

1. Call to Order- 7:11

-In order to achieve quorum, elevate Frank to voting status.

2. Approval of July 11, 2023, meeting minutes- Mary motions, George seconds. Motion passes.

3. Brook debris removal and DEEP permit- Tim Simpkins spoke to committee about brook permit.

-Permit issued to the BPAC in December 2021; permit is good for 5 years, until 2026, and renewable for 5yrs after that.

-Permit states that in order to continue natural flow of water, BPAC is permitted to commence manual removal of weeds from the mouth of outlet not to exceed 6ft across and not below the natural water level.

-The brook itself has not been defined.

-If weeds are impeding flow, they need to be removed; and BPAC is authorized to remove cattails from mouth of outlet.

-Removing other debris is also permissible as is disposing of them offsite.

-There was a debate in 2021 about the removal of native vs invasive vegetation.

Cattail removal was met with pushback.

-Committee always intends to let land trust and residents know their plans for the pond.

-Even with weeds, water is flowing smoothly and rose up with the heavy rains, but not enough to flood the pond.

-At the end of growing season, George plans to cut back vegetation; not rip up from roots and remove.

-George, Tom Quigley, and Tim will: use the maple tree as a point, measure 6 ft out, put in rebar, and remove cattails from the mouth of the brook.

- George will not do stream weed removal, except cattails, in brook mouth or the main stream until everything frosts and dies.

- Tim offers to attend a meeting with George, Land Trust (Gary Mummert) and property owners (Anthony and Lisa Lisi, "Lisi's Cove") to review roles and responsibilities.

- Land trust has been planting on Hahlawah Preserve.

- Intend to send Larry's report to the state and Agricultural extension services.

4. Motorized watercraft- A paddleboard was spotted in the south end, seemingly originating from a dock.

- Pete Viola attempted to find the owner and managed to speak with them. The craft has not been seen since.

- Additionally, two more were spotted, seemingly originating from boat launch; the issue was reported by people on shore and the crafts have not returned.

- Issue is not apparently pervasive.

5. Larry Marsicano's Report and schedule- Report is in, and is very positive.

- Nothing remarkable to report in June.

- Have had the advantage of lots of heavy rain.

6. Update from FOBP- FOBP have not had another meeting since prior to the Music festival.

- The music festival was successful.

- The signs that were put up on the docks all around the pond were well received by the festivalgoers.

- Many people inquired about all the topics that were on the signs.

- Mary requested Mark Spellman send out a note to create a distribution list about algae bloom watch.

- Bloom Watch didn't get any takers in FOBP or BPAC, no one volunteered to spearhead the effort.

- Currently, Monica receives bloom information from Elissa Johnson and Mary disseminates it via email (to interested neighbors).

7. WestConn status- Reported 0.0% microcystin.

- Regarding Saxitoxin in benthic mat, Dr. Wong has a student dedicated to the particular area of research, who will begin in August.

- Mary will follow up with Dr. Wong.

8. Carp activity and recent Candlewood Lake activities- George estimates that 50% of Carp observed in Ball Pond are healthy, the other 50% have scoliosis.

- Ball Pond stocked 15 fish per vegetative acre in 2015 & 2017.

- George lost all the weeds in his pond, but his pond did not have enough carp to eat them all.

-4 enclosures have been put into Candlewood Lake, with the intent to have weeds grow inside enclosures.

-Grass carp don't eat roots, which means if the weeds do not grow and then die, a virus or pathogen killed whole plant.

-It was reported in an out-of-state body of water, that all the weeds disappeared in 3 weeks; meaning they were killed by pathogen/virus, as it would be impossible for any fish to do such a thing in such a time frame.

-No Grass Carp were present in places where weeds disappeared.

-In the Upper Chesapeake, all the weeds disappeared, and they found the responsible pathogen.

-No more Eurasian Water Milfoil in Candlewood Lake, whereas in recent years it had been proliferous. It is not logical that the fish could have eaten all of it such a short time, but it had been completely wiped out by 2022.

- In 2017 and 2018 Coontail was getting black fungus by boat launch and north end and began dying out.

9. Road salts and weed spray along Rt 39- Jim has penned a letter to the State of CT and New Fairfield public works, requesting a shift from sodium chloride to calcium chloride, but has not sent it out yet.

-Jim requests Monica send stationary for him to do so.

-Monica will print the letter out on letterhead paper and send to Jim to sign and mail out.

10. Community Bloom Watch- FOBP bloom watch is still, for the most part, Mary getting information from residents and documenting them.

-2 documented blooms: June 30th and July 17th, in Lisi's cove and northward.

11. New Business- Julian transfer.

-Julian needs to send a letter with his resignation; Monica received no response upon reaching out to him.

-A vote will then be held to promote Frank from alternate to permanent member of the committee.

12. Adjournment- 8:05

-Monica motions, George seconds, all in favor. Motion passes.

Received by email on 8/4/2023 @ 11:06 a.m.
By: Holly Z. Smith, Town Clerk, New Fairfield