

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Special Meeting  
April 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm  
Remote

Zoom link- <https://zoom.us/j/91625080767>

*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: Monica Santos, Mary Yulo, Frank Yulo, George Buck, Hannah Schiering, Debi Coniglio-Kilcourse, Ellen McHugh

Members of the Public: Maureen Dangelo, Larry Marsicano, Christopher Lentz, Irv Becker, Laura Becker, Stuart Orsher, Gladys George, Cliff Orsher, Kyle Van Vlack, Pam Atkinson, EAS MD, Jackie Orsher, Pamel

Moderator: Quintin Flower

1. Call to Order- 7:28

2. Approval of March 5, 2023, meeting minutes- Mary moves, George seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

3. Q & A with Larry-

**What we can do as residents to maintain the water quality of Ball Pond?**

-If one were to consult the Lake George Association or any other advocacy group, one would get the same general suggestions.

-Candlewood Lake Homeowners guide to Lake Friendly Living suggests residents: reduce impermeable surfaces, reduce lawn size, be smart about lawn care, use phosphorus free fertilizers for general lawn maintenance, don't flush unused prescription drugs, conserve water, reduce hazardous household waste, plant a rain garden, plant native flora, etc.

-Ball Pond is a small part of the Candlewood watershed and the Town of New Fairfield pays into the Candlewood authority.

-Ball Pond brook drains out of and back into Candlewood Lake; so, what's good for Candlewood is good for Ball Pond.

-The Town of New Fairfield has its own sewer avoidance program; septic systems are inspected on a cycle and good septic management is maintained by residents.

-Impermeable surfaces are also written into zoning regulations. Residents need to calculate the total area of impermeable surfaces if they are wanting to expand their property, they also need to figure how they will mitigate storm water.

-Education is most important. Residents should know what Zebra Mussels look like and how to handle them if they end up finding a shell.

-The state has a statute that talks about the use of fertilizer, namely that no fertilizer containing phosphorus is supposed to be used for general lawn fertilization.

-There is information already out there for us to model any of our efforts after.

### **In regard to a rapid response protocol for Zebra Mussels, what exactly would we do?**

-Calcium levels in Ball Pond are high enough to sustain Zebra Mussels, so there is at least moderate colonization potential for Zebra Mussels.

-The mussels won't swim upstream, but are in close enough proximity that they could be trafficked by kayaks or boats or other surfaces.

-As for a response, we must find the answers to the following questions: Who will confirm it is a Zebra Mussel? Can it be determined exactly where it came from? Who will we notify? How do we determine the extent? Is it lake-wide or just a single shell?

-Back in 2009, when the mussels were found to have invaded Lake Zoar and the Housatonic, a plan was put in motion.

### **What techniques are there, if any, to catch the zooplankton before they reach maturity?**

-The mussels have to have a fair number of adult mussels in the lake in order to make a colony. A single mussel, which is the size of a thumbnail, will simply live and die if introduced alone.

-If a sample taken from a body of water is tested and finds the sample contains veligers, which are juvenile stage mussels, it is too late.

- Dr. Wong previously took samples of water and used DNA fingerprinting to determine if Zebra Mussel DNA was present.

-[invasivemusselcollaborative.net](http://invasivemusselcollaborative.net) is a good resource.

-Zebra Mussels are filter feeders, but they have been observed to be selective filter feeders; it appears they don't like cyanobacteria.

-If left unchecked: they can slowly form thick crusts on structures, the shells can build up on beaches, they can outcompete native shellfish. The only positive is that water can become clear due to their filtering.

-Like with Ball Pond's shoreline algae blooms residents need to determine whether or not they want to address the situation should it occur or leave it be.

### **How would we go about developing a "phosphorus budget"?**

-Measure the volume of water in the pond and calculate volume of phosphorus; ideally done earlier in the year, as Ball Pond has stratified by May.

-August has noticeable leakage over thermocline.

-Cyanobacteria is usually not on the surface of the pond and tends to hang around at about 6-10 meters depth; they can regulate buoyancy, and while they get enough sunlight at that level, they like the nutrient concentration, and phosphorus concentrations are greater at lower depths.

-As it is expensive to test, it was recommended to test at each level of the water column, not each meter.

-Soluble reactive phosphorus, one constituent of total phosphorus, can be fed on; but phosphorus bound up in calcite cannot be used by bacteria.

-Ball Pond has not reported concentration in samples taken to be over 1 microgram per liter. We need to look at what the toxin levels would be in a sample from a bloom?

### **What is the likelihood that we could get the state to change the chemical formula for road salts?**

-Ball Pond accumulates salts, both calcium and sodium, greater increase than most other lakes; which is at least partially due to the fact that state roads run right by it.

-In 2020 there was an effort to create a statute to manage salts, namely to certify applicators of salts and perhaps change not the formula but the application. Covid -

19 put a bit of a stop to a lot of legislation, this particular effort included, unfortunately.

-In an effort to better the chances of getting legislation and regulations passed, we need learn to be able to speak effectively about the topics. Someone needs to become the expert.

-Private roads are present around Candlewood Isle, not so much around Ball Pond.

-State roads are well traveled and the state doesn't want to risk lawsuits for neglecting to maintain safe roads.

-New Milford sprays their roads now, no longer using granular salts and sand.

-One resident in Rhinebeck New York, Robert Wyant, Head of the Highway Department, created his own brine solution for deicing, which costed the town less to apply; it was tested in an official capacity and was both a financial and practical success. But the problem roads for Ball Pond are state roads, not town. \*

-Salts prohibit complete mixing within the water column.

-We need to determine when oxygen levels drop to zero and begin loading up with phosphorus, and when oxygen levels are homogenous from top to bottom; as such, we should consider starting our testing contract earlier in the year.

4. New Business- Review details for testing project that Frank Yulo is proposing-

-Frank went to the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) annual meeting and workshop. Met with a representative of HOBOT data loggers and a representative from All Habitat Services, LLC. Would like to invite Lindsey Webb from All Habitat to the August Zoom meeting to discuss possible solutions for addressing the elevated phosphorus levels in Ball Pond.

-Intends to have conductivity and temperature sensors attached to the dissolved oxygen meter and a light sensor.

-Collect data after the first month and get benchmark.

-Frank has met with our First Selectman, Melissa Lindsey, and is getting support from Tim Simpkins. Application signed by First Selectman Lindsey and emailed to the State DEEP.

-Donations to the town have to be voted on, but this project is privately funded with the donation to Friends of Ball Pond, an environmental non-profit organization.

-Brawley Testing could be done on Saturdays in July and August so out of state residents could come out and help.

-Having live monitoring would be ideal.

-Current estimate for equipment is \$6,600 for the anchor, buoy, sensors, etc.

-Who does the data go to? The data could be posted on the BPAC page and given to Tim Simpkins.

-Inland fisheries and other organizations in Connecticut, such as the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station may also be interested in data.

-How deep is the mud? We will need to set up the sensors to ensure they will be at least a meter above the mud, around 40-35-foot mark.

-The software Frank plans to use can convert data into graphic displays, taking it from numerical and making it visual.

-The committee could turn to social media and get information out there via platforms.

6. Adjournment- 8:40 Debi motions, Mary seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

\*The name and title of the resident were not mentioned at the meeting and the information was clarified post-meeting.

**Received by email on 4/9/2024 @ 9:00 a.m.  
by Tricia Quinn, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**