

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
May 7, 2024, 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: Monica Santos, Mary Yulo, Frank Yulo, George Buck, Hannah Schiering, Debi Coniglio-Kilcourse, Ellen McHugh

1. Call to Order- 7:15
2. Approval of April 2, 2024, meeting minutes- Monica motions, Mary seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.
3. Discuss the water monitoring schedule- Ideally, monitoring would be done on a month-by-month basis when people are available to do the testing.
 - Ideally, we would try to get community involvement; having 2 weekends during the summer to get residents involved was suggested.
 - The boat used for testing can hold 3 people comfortably. George has suggested that he launch with Larry and Frank and another person, but George won't accompany them onto the pond so that others may have a chance to participate in water testing firsthand.
4. Update on budget status for 2024-2025 budget- So far, BPAC is not a part of the budget cuts.
5. Conversation to add clarity in the meeting minutes for the HOBO monitoring- The monitoring is funded and overseen by FBP.
 - The project is endorsed and supported by BPAC, but is not sponsored by it.
6. Update from Friends of Ball Pond- Board meeting on May 29th.
 - Annual meeting is June 8th (Reilly's House on Ball Pond Road East).
 - Jeff Main will be speaking, giving a presentation on what lives in Ball Pond. The meeting begins at 11am, Jeff will be speaking at 11:30am.
 - July 6th is the annual kid's kayak race.
 - The Shop Around is July 12th.
 - The annual music festival is July 20.
 - 3 boat parades: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day, all at noon.

- December 8th will be the Holiday party.
- Mary will bring up road salt project with the FOBP.

7. New Business- Monica will reach out to Julian about Road salts.

- Having attended the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) annual meeting and workshop, Frank would like to invite Lindsey Webb, from All Habitat, to the August Zoom meeting to discuss phosphorus measures and other topics.

George shared these points:

- Coontail died to fungus in Ball Pond and Squantz Pond and Candlewood Lake.
 - Carp don't eat the roots of vegetation, so the weeds were killed off by something viral or bacterial.
 - 200,000 acres of Eurasian Milfoil disappeared back in the 60's in Chesapeake, far too quickly to have been due to grazing.
 - In the past, the Grass Carp grazed Ball Pond's biomass down to 50% and then down to 60%; it makes no sense that they would suddenly graze it down 100%, especially since the pond hadn't stocked carp since 2017, and it was 2022 when the weeds died off.
 - A treatment for viral/bacterial issues is being looked into, but most research is being done in Europe and it is not about how to prevent them but how to grow them and insert them to eat the weeds.
 - The first employment of Grass Carp as weed control was done in South Carolina, in the largest and third largest lake, the former feeds into the latter; the carp were introduced to eat invasive Hydrilla.
 - Salisbury closed their only boat launch due to Hydrilla, which could set a bad precedent; boat launches should not be closed down, it violates the resident's First Amendment right to assemble.
 - There was an attempt at Lake Waramaug to install a double-wide boat launch, but the residents rejected the idea, discouraging out of towners.
 - The launch that was installed is open from 8-10am, but from 10am to 4pm it is unmonitored.
 - Representatives visit lake parking lots used specifically for boat launches; such parking lots are only for people launching boats, but when others park there it causes overcrowding.
 - Kent had to shut down roads during the COVID-19 pandemic because all state parks were shut down and people wanted somewhere to go, which resulted in more people than Kent could handle.
- Candlewood Lake cleanup is May 28th.
- The Committee currently has a high school student doing community service cleaning and maintaining the area around the pond. The student reports to the high school guidance department and takes pictures of what he does. The committee will get the student's work log from the high school.

8. Adjournment- 7:57 Frank motions, George seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

Minutes submitted by: Alexis Surovy

Received by email on 05/13/2024 @ 9:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield