

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
July 2, 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, George Buck, Ellen McHugh, Mary Yulo, Frank Yulo

1. Call to Order- 7:06

2. Approval of June 4, 2024, meeting minutes- Mary motions, Ellen seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

3. Discuss the water monitoring schedule- Unsure as to the status of monitoring for July onward due to budget.
-\$1600 per month.

4. Update on budget status for 2024-2025 budget- Budget is currently pending approval.
-Need to make note that weed control is no longer an issue and does not need to be included in the budget.

5. Update from Friends of Ball Pond- FOBP had their annual meeting on the 8th of June.
-The FOBP newsletter was distributed in hard copy and electronically to FBP distribution. Contained algae bloom info/warning.
-Mary once again put out a request to the members for someone to volunteer to head a bloom watch. No volunteers (Note: Neighbors send pictures to Mary and she forwards them to Dr. Wong and Tim Simpkins, and to FBP for use on social media).
-She put up signs at public access points to inform the public of algae blooms.

-The kayak races and music festival are the next events on the FOBP calendar.
-Mary will inquire with FOBP board as to the feasibility of having them contract Larry/Brawley for water testing for July and possibly August.

6. Volunteer request for town beach gardening maintenance- Gary Mummert is looking for volunteers to weed along RT 39 and maintain the flowers at the town park.

7. Brawley invoices and budget status- Brawley's invoice has been paid for May-June.

-The budget is pending, and the status of July testing, as well as beyond, is contingent on approval.

8. Summer results from June water testing- Dr. Wong's report showed negligible microcystin levels.

-Dr. Wong could not gather sufficient manpower to test Ball Pond for Saxitoxin.

-How else can we test for Saxitoxin? Mary will speak to Larry.

-Saxitoxin is in cyanobacteria, it can cause gastrointestinal and neurological issues.

-Two summer ago, the benthic mat of the pond was tested, in shallow water, and showed unusually high Saxitoxin levels.

-(Noted by George: Weed biomass, which composes the benthic mat, decomposes all at once; while biomass created by grass carp decomposes over a 9-month period of time, give or take.)

-The boat launch, Hahlawah Preserve, and Lisi's Cove get the worst blooms; while the safest place is the middle of the pond.

-George informed the committee that he has never seen a bloom on Squantz Pond.

-George also added that along the Hudson River, there are so many Zebra Mussels by the time water makes its way from Albany to the Tappan Zee bridge, 50% of the water is filtered through a Zebra mussel.

9. New Business- None.

10. Adjournment- 7:58 Mary motions, Ellen seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

*Minutes submitted by Alexis Surovy.