

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
August 6, 2024, at 7:00 pm
<https://zoom.us/j/92999792611>

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, Ellen McHugh, Mary Yulo, Frank Yulo

In attendance: Zoom Moderator: Quintin Flower

In attendance: Members of the public: Steve and Cristine Savino, Pam and Rob Carlucci, Unknown iPhone, Gladys and Stuart Orsher, Cliff Orsher, Chris Lentz, Ashley Kepping, Theodore Orsher

1. Call to Order- 7:01 Mary calls to order.
2. Approval of July 2, 2024, meeting minutes- Ellen motions, Hannah seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.
3. Update on budget status for 2024-2025 budget- The budget was approved and the board can afford to pay for the water testing for August.
 - Mary had asked if FOBP would pay for Brawley to do testing for the month of August, should the budget not cover the cost.
 - FOBP was willing but, as the budget was approved, it was unnecessary.
4. Update from Friends of Ball Pond- On Labor Day weekend, FOBP will hold the Shop Around the Pond tag sale from 9am to 2pm on August 31st.
 - Next annual meeting will be around holiday time in December.
 - Friends and local residents have been out and about, participating in water testing, as well as paddling out to simply watch and ask questions.
5. Review reports from Brawley and Dr. Wong- Dr. Wong has his students go out onto the pond and do the testing.

- He has them test only for Microcystin. According to his reports, we have very low levels in Ball Pond.
- Brawley has found that algae blooms have been limited, but testing has shown high levels of phosphorus at depth.
- Algae blooms are usually blue-green in color, but can also be red in color.
- The weeds in the pond are low growing. They grow along the shoreline and at the boat launch, but have yet to extend out into the middle of the pond.
- In 2020 and 2021 the water had an abundance of Milfoil; but, in 2022, everything just died out completely.
- George recounted witnessing the Coontail, which grows like Christmas tree, lose its branches to fungus. The branches turned black and died, which eventually led to the death of the entire plant.
- Weeds are important and the pond does not have enough of them to protect smaller species that use them for shelter and cover.
- The fish that live in the pond need the right temperature and dissolved oxygen, which is why they rely so heavily on the thermocline, especially in August, when it hits its peak.
- The thermocline sits 15 feet below the surface. It has the highest levels of dissolved oxygen and coldest temperature.
- Cyanobacteria grows down below the thermocline.
- While there is no sign of cyanobacteria on the surface, the pond outlet is filled with terrestrial weeds.
- It can be cleaned, with permission, if there is a storm or adverse weather on the way.
- Ball Pond is spring fed and high quality, but it is still affected by runoff from the roads and adjacent yards. The watershed is very small, at less than 400 acres.

6. Presentation by guest speaker Lindsey Webb- Presenter did not show up to meeting.

7. New Business- Buoy project is underway.

- The goal of the project is to collect additional data about the health of Ball Pond.
- Equipment will be anchored to the floor at the deepest part of the pond, at the same location where Brawley tests, to make it easier to find and access.
- One sensor will be placed a meter above the floor; it will take measurements every minute for temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- Another sensor will be placed a meter below the surface testing for: temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity (salinity).
- The data could be used to document a potential increase in salinity, due to the use of road salts in the winter, and provide solid evidence of the effect on the pond.
- Necessary equipment has been ordered and is hopefully due to arrive by the end of August.

-The plan is to pull out the equipment twice a year to download the data.

8. Adjournment- 7:42 Frank motions, Ellen seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

Submitted by Alexis Surovy

Received by email on 08/12/2024 @ 4:57 p.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield