

Ball Pond Advisory Committee
Monthly Meeting

May 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Senior Center Community Room

Mission: 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, Julian Laemmerhirt, Mary Yulo, Monica Santos, Jim Mellett

Alternate Committee Members: Frank Yulo

1. Call to Order - 7:05
2. Approval of April 4, 2023 meeting minutes - Jim motioned; Mary 2nd. All in favor to approve.*
3. Update from FOBP - Mary noted the following:
 - FOBP next meeting on May 10 to plan June 10 annual meeting. Speaker is Cynthia Rabinowitz, executive director of northeast conservation district to discuss people in watershed can make on Ball Pond.
 - FOBP meets four times per year to set calendar and plan main events.
 - Walkway update - CT Trailways did not award Walkway Grant. The grant may be submitted to other organizations as FOBP finds places to submit.
 - FOBP March newsletter went out with BPAC help from Jim Mellett
 - FOBP April newsletter included NF Earth Day the committee participation
 - FOBP May newsletter will go out and include link to the Brawley report. Newsletter and will include a request for a volunteer for algae watch.
 - With the upcoming Music Festival this summer there is some concern about the possible introduction of zebra mussels. George noted that the mussel will have to live long enough or in an advantageous manner in non motorized boats, ie, kayaks don't typically present a significant concern to BP.
 - FOBP has a designated social media volunteer who is staying on top of FB and social media, including the newsletters to the FOBP website
 - BPR East - **Some homeowners on Ball Pond Rd East are concerned about Meadow Ridge with application for in home chiropractic office. BPAC is not engaging as**

an organization unless there is a clear risk of pollution to Ball Pond and suggesting the neighborhood brings this forward on their own.

4. 2023 water samplings

George is working with Larry Marsicano and will start the sampling during the last two weeks of May. Larry also has David and Hunter to assist this year. George will keep the committee in the loop when they pick the day they will be testing.

The pond was stocked with rainbow and brown trout. For a total of about 1500 in early spring and again late April 1500. There is a larger focus on bass fishing.

5. 2022 Grant status

Mary confirmed the grant reimbursement form and documentation went to DEEP in April. The official documentation went in with Mary's name due to the resubmission, etc.

6. Westconn 2023 testing for cyanotoxins

We have not received the official agreement from Dr. Wong for 2023. Monica reached out for confirmation of their involvement. Our expectation is that WCSU will participate as they have in years past without change.

7. Road salts and weed spray along Rt 39 Weed

Julian put together a rough draft form to send to all the home owners on RT 39 to address both the road salts and weed spray. Asking if they will: a) take care of the area along the road that they own, b) approve of a volunteer to remove weeds in that area or c) not maintain or approve any involvement from the community. This is request for two days in the summer months.

Julian will look into working with the DPW garage for the salt and weed spray.

8. New Secretary applications

There were seven applications Mary vetted. For various reasons there is only one viable at this time. Mary has conducted a phone interview and checked with the supplied references. Everything came back very positive for qualifications and initiative.

Next steps the candidate documentation goes to NF HR to do the official background, approval and onboarding.

Julian motioned that we present candidate to selectman; Mary seconded. Unanimous, all in favor.

9. Community Bloom Watch

At this time the focus will be more of a communication project that will come from FOBP. Julian thought that he may have time now to look into a method and process

for reporting any blooms.

George will talk to Larry about any recommendations for how to provide sample kits, etc. to those interested.

10. New Business

Ball Pond Brook status of drainage. George noted that it's really flowing and clear and grate is clear.

11. Adjournment

8:13 Mary Motioned for adjournment, Monica second. All in favor. Unanimous

**Note: Change to April meeting minutes – Adjournment noted a anonymous concurrence it was a unanimous concurrence.*

Note: July meeting first Tuesday is the 4th. We have scheduled an alternate meeting date of July 11.

Received by email on 08/19/2024 @ 8:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield