

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Monthly Meeting  
September 3, 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

Also in attendance: Thomas Perkins (NF Selectman)

1. Call to Order- 7:06

2. Approval of August 6, 2024, meeting minutes- Mary motions, Ellen seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

3. Discussion on budget status for 2025-2026 budget-

- The committee can move forward with payments to Brawley, as well as with September and October testing.

- Dr. Wong's payments are up to date.

- The committee may have to look into Saxitoxin testing for next year.

- In the past, when Ball Pond stocked carp, restocking from out of state hatcheries was \$5 a fish and the pond got about 74; as opposed to \$18 a fish from here in Connecticut, which Candlewood Lake purchases.

- Aquatic weed survey was done in 2023.

- The committee will send Greg Khan the budget, and Vladimir Kan will be the one to approve the budget.

- The committee needs to submit the budget in December, and it will be reviewed in January via a zoom meeting.

4. Update from Friends of Ball Pond- Music festival was a success.

- One resident reported seeing snails along the shoreline; George informed the committee that such a sighting is a natural event.

- Shop Around the Pond was also very successful, bringing in \$1600 and counting.

- The FOBP holiday party is in December, everyone is invited.

- The group needs to work on the FOBP website and social media; they need someone technologically savvy to assist.

5. Review reports from Brawley and Dr. Wong- Dr. Wong is no longer testing for the committee.

-Ball Pond is well below the threshold for Microcystin.

-Brawley's report states that Ball Pond currently has the best water clarity in years.

-Biggest concentration of cyanobacteria is right above the thermocline, about 6 meters.

-Excerpt from Brawley report:

*Open water cyanobacteria concentrations were low and did not present a potential public health threat from harmful algal blooms. However, blooms were photo documented along the shoreline on the same day. Cyanobacteria cell concentrations in blooms can be in the 100s of 1000s or more. Caution should be used in near-shore areas and coves where cyano-bacteria blooms can form. Cyanobacteria blooms should be reported and documented (date, time, etc.) and contact with blooms avoided by people or pets. The protracted period of anoxic conditions near the bottom of the water column results in the loading of phosphorus into those waters. This is a likely contributor to the maximum concentrations of cyanobacteria at deeper depths where they can take advantage of the elevated phosphorus levels.*

6. Discussion of replacement of committee chairperson and handover of documents- Jean Green has the key, and the alarm code, for the community room.

-Jamie is the one who works on the town website, and the committee goes through Jamie to get to Quintin for other technological needs (ie. Zoom meetings).

-Mary volunteered for the chairperson position, and Ellen volunteered to be vice chair.

7. New Business- George staked out the line where the Cattails can grow to until they require removal.

-The high school student that was slated to clean the grate did so, but did not get any committee members to sign off on the school community service.

-Bodies of water, both fresh and salt, across the nation are having unprecedented blooms as weeds die and cyanobacteria take over.

-Izzak Walton has a program called Salt Watch, which monitors chloride levels across the nation.

-His program offers free test kits, and Frank suggests the committee order kits to help test throughout the year.

-Frank himself has ordered a kit, and says that the committee should suggest other residents do the same.

-There are 12 places in Connecticut that are using the kits.

- The committee, as it has been, will use George's boat when available, as the BPAC boat is too small for three people, roughly rowboat sized.
- The committee should look into getting a boat trailer for the BPAC boat and store it at public works.
- The committee suggests CC-ing Tim Simpkins on water testing reports and such, as he was the one to do testing in the past.
- A 12-foot boat with rear mounted electric motor was reported by Pete Viola.
- Electric motors are banned in Ball Pond, barring official town business like water testing.

8. Adjournment- 8:02 Mary motions, George seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

Minutes submitted by: Alexis Surovy

Received by email on 9/10/2024 @ 10:45 a.m.  
by Tricia Quinn, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield