

BALL POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 1, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Special Meeting

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92226022307>

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, Mary Yulo, Frank Yulo, Hannah Schiering

In attendance: Zoom Moderator: Eric Kist

In attendance: Members of the public: Gladys and Stuart Orsher, Cliff Orsher, Chris Lentz, Ashley Kepping, Theodore Orsher

1. Call to Order- 7:02

2. Approval of September 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes- Frank motions, George seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

3. Leadership transition: Review of guidelines and roles-

- a) Monica submitted her letter of resignation.
- b) A new chairperson needs to be nominated by the committee. George nominates Mary, Hannah seconds; all in favor.
- c) Ellen McHugh has previously volunteered for Vice Chair of the committee. Mary appoints Ellen as Vice Chair.
- d) The roles of each committee member are, generally, as follows:
 - Ellen has volunteered to: check BPAC's town mailbox, do document drop offs, make copies of paper documents, and pick up the key on the nights of BPAC meetings.
 - George is the de facto committee historian, provides critical info from DEEP and other agencies, and checks the Ball Pond Brook every week or so, especially before winter. (First frost is the optimal time to

remove invasive weeds.) He also provides a boat and assistance for water testing.

- Mary asked Hannah to take water testing data, summarize it, and put it in a format that can be printed in the FOBP newsletter and put in town newsletter (on town website).
- Frank is the head of the FOBP Buoy Project, and is assisted by George; the committee asks that Frank give periodic updates on Buoy Project*. Frank assists with water testing.
- The committee needs to choose a liaison for WCSU, assuming they continue water monitoring project.

**Frank and George got the buoy anchor rigged up and followed all state regulations (September 14th).*

- *The soft launch was on Friday September 20th and the temperature sensors are active.*
- *Frank and George will need to pull the buoy to ensure sensors are working.*
- *The sensors have about a 6–7-month length of operation before they hit their cap, which causes the sensor to read 888 and cease taking temperature measurements.*
- *The sensor tip will need to be replaced in the spring and will need 4 in total per year.*
- *Frank has informed the committee that an additional donation is due to be made to the project.*
- *The buoy has been anchored in the lake.*
- *The police department would have received a letter, dated May 14th 2024, about the buoy to be referred to if anyone reports it.*
- *The project was approved by the First Selectman and DEEP.*
- *Frank will be using the data gathered in conjunction with both Brawley and WCSU data.*

Note:

-The committee is subject to FOIL, as such, all correspondence is supposed to be via town emails; Mary has sent emails to the town email addresses of all members of the committee and suggested they set them up if they haven't already.

4. Budget Update- The committee does not need to have next year's budget ready until the end of the current year.

5. December (Zoom) Meeting Plan- Larry Marsicano will summarize the water testing results from this past year.

6. BPAC Boat Update- Mary reached out to Julian Lammerhert about the boat, and cover, but has not heard back.

7. Water Testing Update-

- Brawley Water sampling/testing was done on September 14th. The current report is available.
- Ball Pond is in good shape; it has had few blooms, and each bloom was both concentrated and short-lived.
- Dr. Wong is retiring, and was unsure as to whether or not anyone in his department would take over his testing role.
- Theodora Pinou is the program chair for the Biology Department at WCSU; George suggests sending her an email to inquire as to what she plans to do, if anything.
- Saxitoxin is expensive to test for, which needs to be considered.

8. WCSU Lake Seminar- On September 23rd, there was a symposium on Hydrilla, an invasive aquatic plant.

- Hydrilla is low growing and extremely aggressive.
- It has invaded the Hudson and CT rivers, as well as East Twin Lake.
- Wononskopomuc, the deepest lake in Connecticut and the best suited for cold water fish, is no longer accessible as the town of Lakeville shut down the boat launch so no one would bring Hydrilla into the water.
- Ball Pond is a natural glacial lake, and one of the few of its kind with a public launch.
- Grass carp love Hydrilla, but it is too fast-growing to be managed by them.

- On Oct. 21, there will be another seminar on Aquatic Invasive Species Grants in Connecticut. Committee members are encouraged to register and attend this zoom meeting.

9. Friends of Ball Pond Update- Frank updated the FOBP in regards to the Buoy project (above).

- The Holiday Party is only event for the rest of the year.

10. New Business- None.

11. Public comment- Stuart Orsher- Thanks Mary for her work and thanks the neighbors for their support. He also thanks the committee for its work as a whole.

12. Adjournment-7:34 Hannah motions, Frank seconds; all in favor. Motion passes.

Minutes submitted by Alexis Surovy

Received by email on 10/08/2024 @ 8:30 a.m
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield