

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**August 6, 2019**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**  
**7 pm**

**Next meeting: August 6, 2019 at 7 pm**

Committee Members present: Gary Mummert, Mark Spellmann (Vice Chair), Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair), Pete Viola, George Buck and Jim Mellett. Others present: Friends of Ball Pond member Maureen D'Angelo and Monica Santos.

Julian Laemmerhirt called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Pete Viola made a motion to accept the Minutes of July 2, 2019. Mark Spellmann seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0 (*Gary Mummert arrived after vote: Motion passed*)

**General Correspondence:**

Julian reported there is \$7643 in the budget, \$7000 for weeds and \$643 for salaries.

**Public Comment:**

Maureen D'Angelo had received a draft proposal of an article for a newsletter from BPAC committee member Jim Mellett. The article, called *The Life Cycle of Lakes*, touches on the need for Ball Pond to remain in an oligotrophic state, which is when the water is pristine. It encourages residents to not use fertilizers on their lawns, which run off into the pond. In discussing the article, Mark Spellmann suggested Jim add more information, including the fact that 80% of fertilizers run off into the pond, and recommend alternative solutions so people can have their green lawns. Besides clover, mulching and watering more would yield a green lawn. He also suggested mentioning the soil testing done by Friends of Ball Pond in the 1990s that showed no deficiency in phosphorous or nitrogen and recommend residents do soil testing before using fertilizers. Jim will make changes and send to committee for review.

Maureen also expressed concern over the warm temperature of the water in Ball Pond, the lack of weeds, and that she does not feel the cold springs. Jim responded that there was 3 inches less of rainfall. George was not concerned because there was a cold, rainy spring, then a very hot summer and thermoclines do not stay in the same place. Jim also mentioned it was the hottest July on record around the world. More sunlight is being absorbed at the surface. George said there is a nitrogen and phosphorous overload in the lake because of heavy rains and run-off in the spring. Maureen asked if the pond will improve. George said yes. Gary said no one, including George, can give a definitive answer regarding whether the pond will improve.

Maureen was also concerned about the health of the fish. The Secchi disk reading was at 5.5 feet instead of the normal 10 feet. George said there was an electro-shock by the State that

showed no difference in the number of fish or the quality of fish compared to years past. Fish have gone deeper to reach weeds. Mark estimated there are @ 198 carp in Ball Pond right now based on 15% attrition (in 2013, 133 carp were added to Ball Pond, in 2015, 150 carp and in 2016, 75 carp). With regards to carp, they eat most of the weeds from 5-7 years, and live to about 12 years old. Pete and Maureen mentioned seeing several dead alewives fish along the shoreline. George was not concerned, as it is a natural phenomenon.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Review of Water Quality Analysis from Tim Simpkins, Health Dept.**

Tim had recommended BPAC do water testing every month for phosphorous levels from April through September, which costs @ \$400 each time. Tim is willing to show BPAC members how to do the sampling using Van Dorn bottles dipped at three different levels. Mark will let the committee know when Tim is available to show them. Julian recommended testing soil along the shoreline periodically for phosphorous. He wondered about the legality of it. Maureen felt if it was part of a Water Management plan people would be receptive to having their lawns tested. Monica asked if she should have her lawn tested, even though she is not along the shoreline. Her house is up on a hill overlooking the pond, but there is run-off. The committee said yes. Gary asked if testing for pathogens will be done? George said he had a hypothesis that pathogens could be killing weeds because lawns become saturated and the water column then moves downward and weed killer gets washed into the pond. However, Tim had a valid point that pathogens have a short life because of the dilution factor. After a week, they don't kill anything anymore. Testing would have to be done right away because samples become perishable. There are also fewer companies testing for pathogens, so it would be more expensive. Gary also wondered if the committee had given up on having Mark June-Wells come and look at the health of Ball Pond. George said his hypothesis was not going to bear fruit. He said the water was too cold (even in June) so weeds did not grow. Of 100% of weeds, fish usually eat 50%. Weeds are down 30%, so when fish eat them, the pond ends up being (-20%) less weeds.

Mark wondered if the five water tests, or \$3000, should be moved to a different line item in the budget. Right now, it is under Weed Control. Gary suggested speaking with Ed Sbardone (203- 312-5650) of the Finance Department to see if there needed to be a resolution.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Homemade dock at the North end and removal of boats by town beach:**

Monica Santos, who owns the property that the homemade dock and boat are on, was at the meeting. She wanted to know how she should handle removal. She didn't want to just cut the boat and dock free and have them end up on someone else's property. Gary, who will be speaking with the First Selectman, will add the homemade dock and boat to his list. The First Selectman can have the police put a sticker on it warning the person who trespassed and put the dock and boat there to remove it by a certain date or it will be removed. A friend of the trespasser was already warned by Mark. Gary said he will let Monica know when the meeting is taking place. She can join him. Gary is also discussing the removal of four boats on the north

side of the town beach and one on the south side. Mark asked him to add the boat and trailer abandoned by the Satterlee Road boat launch.

**Recognition for former members:**

George made a motion to add Thank you Letters for Helen and Cynthia to the Agenda. Gary seconded.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

George would like Cynthia Stevens and Helen Gallagher, who recently resigned from Ball Pond Advisory Committee, but had done so much over the years, recognized for their service by the First Selectman. He will draft letters and send to the committee for review. Lisa can print them on BPAC letterhead, or they can be sent to the First Selectman to print and sign.

**Adjournment**

Mark Spellmann made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Julian Laemmerhirt seconded.

Vote: 6-0-0 Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

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Recording Secretary