

Ball Pond Advisory Committee Meeting
October 1, 2019
Town Hall Conference Room
7 pm

Next meeting: November 5, 2019 at 7 pm

Committee Members present: Gary Mummert, Mark Spellmann (Vice Chair), Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair), George Buck, Monica Santos and Jim Mellett. Absent: Pete Viola

Call to Order:

Julian Laemmerhirt called the meeting to order 7:06 pm

Approval of Minutes:

Jim Mellett made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 3, 2019. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

General Correspondence:

- Julian reported that the budget has remained the same at \$7000 for weeds, \$643 for salaries.
- Jim Mellett shared his revised article *The Life Cycle of Lakes*. It was edited based on comments from the commission.
- Lisa will email BPAC letterhead and envelope PDFs to Mark Spellmann
- Gary Mummert had shared information by email to the committee regarding soil testing that was done in the spring of 2018 by Jim McAlister. Monica will contact Jim to express BPAC's interest in participating in the spring of 2020.
- Mark Spellmann was curious about Jim Mellett's opinion of phosphorous-free fertilizers. Both Jim and Gary feel fertilizing is not necessary, but if someone insists, phosphorous-free should be recommended, as is done so by CT DEEP.

Public Comment:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Beach Improvement

Gary explained at the north fence line there is a 6' radius butterfly garden. He would like to extend it to 10' because there is milkweed, which would draw in more butterflies. He would also like to plant clover around the perimeter of the newly expanded butterfly garden. In addition, there are perennial flowers along the other border. He would like to plant clover there as well and create a border. If it is successful, it can be promoted as the way to have a green lawn without using fertilizer. He added that he would need to explain the difference between honeybees and hornets and yellow jackets to concerned parents. The butterfly garden would attract honeybees, who do not generally sting people.

Mark suggested Gary use what is being suggested in Jim's article, a mixture of grass seed and clover, so people can see the results.

Mark Spellmann made a motion to approve Gary's plan, but with the grass seed/clover mix being planted along the entire Town beach property. Jim Mellett seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

OLD BUSINESS

Town Beach Stone Wall

Jim Mellett would be in favor of removing it. Mark received a quote for \$3900 to remove the wall, with the stones being used by interested residents. George said the stones are a town resource. Public Works may want them for a project. Perhaps Public Works would even handle removing the wall. Gary has not heard from Tom Quigley of Conservation Inland/Wetlands, who would have to be involved with the decision. Tim Simpkins was also going to discuss with Tom Quigley. It was decided that the wall should remain until it begins to fall down. Repairing it is not an option, as it was not initially built correctly. It has no footings.

Status of Unauthorized dock on Santos' lakefront property

Monica's husband saw the boys at the makeshift dock. He has their kayak and told them they could have it back if they cleaned up the area. They have not done so. The paddleboard is now further down the shoreline on property that may be Monica's. The paddleboard is believed to be one that was abandoned and has a bad rudder. The docks are still on her property. George recommended the abandoned paddleboard be brought to Satterlee Road access area for disposal by Public Works. He also recommended Monica or her husband speak to the parents of the kids. Monica has their address. The police are involved and they could be charged with misdemeanor trespassing. Gary said Public Works wants him to call when the boats and trailer with stickers on them can be removed from Satterlee Road access area.

Additional items:

Monica mentioned she spoke with her neighbors regarding phragmites. They would be happy to get rid of them and would welcome anything BPAC wanted to recommend.

Monica also mentioned she and her husband are considering donating a portion of her lakefront property to the town. Mark is inviting her to a Friends of Ball Pond meeting.

Jim asked if there is a contact list for the committee members. Lisa did not have a new one to share. She collected everyone's information and will email it separately.

Mark mentioned Tim Simpkins of the Health department did a water quality testing. He will do another one in October. Mark will let the committee members know when.

George went to the Regional Lake Communities Symposium at Western CT State University on September 30. It was well-attended. The Housatonic River, Candlewood Lake, Lake Zoar, Lake Lillinonah, Taunton Lake, Ball Pond, Squantz Pond, Walton Pond and more, were all represented. The panel discussion lasted about three hours. Many of the same questions and concerns were raised.

George spoke about the 10% attrition rate of carp in Ball Pond, which he believes is a fair number. He said Walton Pond had a 22% attrition rate, which is too high. They overstocked with carp. All of the lakes and ponds in the area, whether they have carp or not, are noticing a loss of weeds. Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinioah wanted carp, but Peter Aarrestad, who is in charge of Marine and Inland Fisheries at CT DEEP, said they could not because of turbines.

Gary said he needs to follow up with the town on signage for the Town beach addressing no lifeguards being on duty. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco was checking with the Town's attorney.

George asked Lisa, recording Secretary, to check with the First Selectman on correspondence with previous committee members Cynthia Stevens and Helen Gallagher.

Jim Mellett made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Mark Spellmann seconded.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim
Recording Secretary
Ball Pond Advisory Committee