

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 5, 2020
Virtual Zoom Meeting – 7 PM**

In attendance: Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair), Mark Spellmann, Monica Santos, George Buck, Pete Viola, Jim Mellett, Gary Mummert, guest Elissa Johnson

Call to Order:

Julian called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2020

Gary Mummert made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 7, 2020

Mark Spellmann seconded the motion

Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)

NEW ITEMS:

CT NOFA guidelines for landscaping in the watershed area

- George wrote a response (from Julian) to the landscaper who inquired about following CT NOFA's guidelines in the watershed area. Julian was fine with Lisa sending the response.
- Mark was very impressed with the document and will have it posted on the Friends of Ball Pond website, and Facebook (if possible).
- Jim thought the document was outstanding.

Increasing the number of committee members on BPAC

- Elissa Johnson expressed interest in joining BPAC. That would make her an eighth member.
- Lisa checked with the Town Clerk's office, then the First Selectman's office. She learned from the First Selectman that the Ball Pond Advisory Committee is not part of the town's ordinances. It can be increased. However, for approval from the Town Selectmen the committee would need to have an uneven number of committee members. So, either they increase to 9 members or wait until someone resigns.
- Mark suggested the committee find a ninth member. He will send an email out to Friends of Ball Pond.
- Elissa did not know of anyone living in New Fairfield that she could have join as a ninth member. She provided some background to the committee. She was the original President of the Friends of Ball Pond. She has lived in New Fairfield for 37 years. She became involved many years ago because of the frequency of herbicides being used. She has a background in Environmental Science and Environmental Biology. She taught for several years and still does part time. She retired three years ago. She did research on Ball Pond for her Master's Degree. She took water samples and studied vegetation. Conservation is her life. On her own property, she is switching to native plants. Her resume was shared with the committee.
- The committee felt she would be a very strong addition. Pete offered to resign, if necessary, to have her join. He would still attend meetings in an unofficial capacity.
- Elissa asked where she could see the history of water testing. Mark mentioned Tim Simpkins of the town's Health Department has the records of tests. George mentioned the 17 years of

testing and study done by the Ball Pond Advisory Committee, with the resulting document written by Mark June Wells and Cynthia Stevens. Lisa mentioned there are links to the study on the Ball Pond Advisory's town web page.

OLD ITEMS:

Newsletter mailing list

Mark explained there are four potential mailing routes in New Fairfield for EDDM:

1. R011 - 398 mailboxes (west side of Ball Pond)
2. R007 - 423 mailboxes (east side of Ball Pond)
3. C035 - 215 mailboxes (south of Ball Pond and on down Gillotti Rd)
4. R004 - 534 mailboxes (Ball Pond Estates and down toward Putnam Lake)

- BPAC mailed to 1 and 3 for the newsletter. The total mailed was 623, which cost \$124 in postage.
- If BPAC mails to all four routes, that's about 1,578 mailboxes. Postage for 1,578 = \$301.
- The routes selected were in the watershed, not necessarily around Ball Pond.
- Mark also learned that EDDM (Direct mailing) is supposed to be a specific size but the post office showed mercy.
- Julian created a postcard for Friends of Ball Pond that is less expensive to mail. It does not require an envelope and uses less postage. A postcard did not work for Jim's newsletter, but it could be an option in the future. Wording needs to be short and succinct with bullet points.

Water testing dates

- Julian spoke with Tim Simpkins about a week ago. He is waiting to hear from Tim on some dates. He will follow up with him.
- Julian will also follow up with Public Works on obtaining an abandoned boat for BPAC to use going forward for water testing. Julian is working on obtaining a permit to have a dock on his property. He would be happy to keep the boat there. The boat will need oars. Julian and Mark saw one of the abandoned boats being stored. It seemed to be in good, solid condition.
- Mark suggested leaving the boat at the Satterlee Road access until it can be kept at Julian's.
- George mentioned the CT DEEP's website defines abandoned boats as being left for one day. Some of the boats on Ball Pond have been abandoned for two or more years.

Other items:

- Mark said Gary has done a great job in cleaning up Hahlawah Preserve and putting mulch down.
- Mark also said Julian has done a great job cleaning up his shoreline.
- Monica said she is working on hers.
- Jim sent two photos of where he will be planting grass seed and clover.

Adjournment:

Pete Viola made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm

Mark Spellmann seconded the motion

Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion passed)

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa Arasim- Ball Pond Advisory Secretary *Lisa Arasim*