

Ball Pond Advisory Committee Meeting
July 7, 2020
Virtual Meeting Minutes
7 PM

Present: Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair), George Buck, Pete Viola, Elissa Johnson and Jim Mellett

Call to Order:

Julian called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Correspondence:

No correspondence was discussed. The new 2020-2021 budget started July 1

Public Comment:

There was no public comment

Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2020:

Elissa made a correction. She served on the Friends of Ball Pond Committee, not Ball Pond Advisory Committee.

Pete made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended

Jim seconded the motion

Vote: 4-0-1 (Jim abstained, Motion passed)

OLD ITEMS:

TOWN BEACH Jim's plan was to remove a small patch of sod and replant it on the south side of the beach where no grass is growing, then put topsoil, grass seed and clover, then cover with hay. When he started digging the sod with the edge of a spade, he quickly realized the sod is very hard and not so easily removed. He would need to bring some tools, offload them at the beach and move his car. He would prefer to hold off until it is cooler. Pete said he offered to help. Jim will reach out to Pete, and together they can remove the sod and plant the seeds and clover this summer. The grass seeds and clover should grow quickly covered with hay. The clover will not flower until next year. By pulling nitrogen compounds from the atmosphere, and in turn putting that back into the soil, clover acts as a great natural fertilizer. Grass that is intermixed with clover will be healthier and greener, because of this nitrogen-fixing aspect. It acts as its own natural fertilizer.

WATER TESTING:

George said he went out on the pond a couple of weeks ago to do water testing with Tim Simpkins of the Health Department. Tim uses a Secchi disk to test to measure water clarity. It is lowered on a line until you can no longer see it. Tim also tested water temperatures at three levels: the top level by the surface (which was around 75-80 degrees, the middle level (thermocline) and the bottom level below the thermocline. The greater the depth, the less oxygen. Water samples were taken and placed in canisters at different levels. The results have not come back yet. Tim's next water testing is scheduled for September.

- Elissa understood that the committee decided to do testing from April through September monthly.
- George believes testing monthly from June through September will not show major changes. Changes occur prior to June and in September, when there is turnover in temperatures at the surface.
- Both Elissa and Jim were interested in doing the monthly testing during planting season to monitor the effects of fertilizers on the pond. Elissa and Jim understood Tim was going to show BPAC members what he did, so BPAC could take over collecting samples for testing.
- George said Tim did take BPAC out two weeks ago (Jim and Elissa were unavailable).
- Jim is going to see if Tim would be willing to do another water test in August.
- Elissa also wanted to know if Tim used his own equipment or if it belonged to the town.
- Julian suggested BPAC look into purchasing their own equipment and possibly a boat.
- George felt the water testing equipment belonged to the town and BPAC could probably borrow it if needed. George said there are two boats at Public Works that were abandoned and at least one of them was in good shape. BPAC should be able to claim the better one. BPAC would just need to have a registered trailer, a 12-volt battery and an electric mower. In the meantime, BPAC could borrow a boat from George. Julian said he was told to contact the State police about taking one of the boats that were abandoned.
- Jim is going to speak with Tim about the equipment he uses, then price it out and see if it makes sense for BPAC to own their own equipment.
- Elissa also feels water testing results should be sent to BPAC as well. According to George, Tim does not hide the test results, he shares them when requested and sends them to the State. Elissa said the results would be a good educational test indicator of what is going on in the watershed.
- George also said the State is not participating in weed dives this year. They are doing no field work because of covid-19. BPAC is not required to do weed dives anymore. It was a condition of the weed study and carp were last stocked in 2018. However, Tim Simpkins and George Benson recommended going out this year anyway. George said he could use his sonar to see weeds at 10' and 20' levels, if there are any.
- Pete mentioned that if BPAC borrows water testing equipment they probably have to sanitize it before returning it.

Motion to adjourn:

Zoom meeting ended, returned to meeting using Google Meet. George did not rejoin the meeting.

Pete made a motion to Adjourn at 8:12 pm

Jim seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Arasim

Lisa Arasim
Recording Secretary