

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee**  
**Special Monthly Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**August 11, 2020** (Rescheduled from August 4 due to hurricane)  
**5 PM** (Special time)

Attendees: George Buck, Elissa Johnson, Jim Mellett, Pete Viola, Monica Santos, Julian Laemmerhirt, Mark Spellmann, Director of Health Tim Simpkins

**Call the Meeting to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Mark Spellmann (Julian Laemmerhirt joined late)

**Approval of Minutes from July 7**

- Pete Viola made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 7. Jim Mellett seconded the motion  
**Vote: 7-0-0 (motion passed)**

**Public Comment**

- None

**Correspondence**

- None

**New Items:**

- **Water test results and parameters** (with Director of Health Tim Simpkins)
  - George Buck took Tim Simpkins out on his boat to do water sampling in June and weed survey on July 28. The results had been shared with Elissa Johnson.
  - Results: Physical aspect- Ball Pond was stratified at 4 to 5 meters, oxygen depleted by 6 meters (early for season). The anoxic level is up to 6 meters. Phosphorous is relatively low at surface (22 micrograms- mesotrophic range), at 4 meters (37 micrograms- eutrophic) and at bottom (168 micrograms). The phosphorous is being liberated by sediments and migrating upwards to 4 meters. Nitrogen is relatively low. Alkalinity and calcium levels are high enough to support zebra mussel growth.
- **Modified weed dive (July 28)**
  - A modified weed dive to 5 regular spots had no weeds in them. There are native pond weeds re-establishing themselves at the perimeter of the pond. No algae blooms were observed. Clarity is good. Secchi disk reading in June was about 10 feet (consistent for time of year).
  - Elissa will forward a digital copy of report to Lisa to share with committee.
  - Tim felt results were consistent with time of year.
  - In comparing to last year's results, Tim shared that in 2019 (June 14) surface phosphorous was 38 micrograms (22 micrograms in 2020), at 6 meters (measured at 4 meters in 2020), was 46 micrograms (higher in 2019).
  - Elissa would like to know what BPAC should be doing to manage the pond going forward. Is the committee going to do all of the various testing, or just the important factors?
  - Tim said water quality, fish and plant communities have to be looked at. The lack of weeds make fish vulnerable to prey. There is an abundance of nutrients. He has not seen algae blooms. Clarity is good. So, he feels lake is relatively healthy.

- Pete noticed by the dock at his community's private beach, there were hundreds of Sunnys in the past. There are none this year. Tim said without weeds, they get eaten because of lack of hiding spots.
- Tim feels weeds will return. A native pond weed is flourishing on the edge of the shore. That is a good thing.
- George also mentioned they saw strands (not a lot) of coontail, milfoil, southern naiad and algae with weeds of the same stuck in it. The nucleus is there for weeds when we have a better spring. The number of grass carp are getting less and less and bigger and older with smaller appetites. Weeds will have a chance to re-establish themselves. Weeds are good for a pond. Walton Lake in NY overstocked with fish, losing their weeds. Electroshock is done every year. They found over the course of 5 years the fisheries biomass in every class of fish was reduced by 30% because of no weeds.
- Tim said George Benson will put together a data report this year after the second sampling.
- Elissa wanted to know if there was an explanation for the lack of blue green algae. Algaecides? Tim did not think so.
- **Equipment purchase for water sampling**
  - The Conductivity Meter is broken (could not use 2019/2020). Tim would like BPAC to purchase. The Dissolved Oxygen Meter is owned by BPAC. The DO sensor- the gold is tarnished it takes a long time to calibrate.
    - YSI Pro 30 Handheld Conductivity Meter (#76496), \$579.50
    - YSI Pro Series Conductivity Cable – 10 M – (#76484), \$389.50
    - YSI Polarographic Dissolved Oxygen Sensor (#76446), \$179.55
    - Oakton Conductivity Calibration Solution, 84 µS/cm (#76107), \$21.95
    - **Total: \$1,170.50**
  - **Jim Mellett made a motion to purchase the equipment listed above**
    - Mark first wanted to know if there is anything else BPAC needs if they are going to do water quality sampling. The idea is that BPAC would take over that task.
    - Tim replied no, because already have secchi disk, Dissolved Oxygen Meter, Van Dorn bottle and plankton net. There would be the cost of analysis at the lab.
    - Mark wanted to make sure BPAC would have access to equipment. Tim assured BPAC does.
    - Elissa wanted to know if all of the parameters were needed. Does BPAC need to do all of them? Tim said parameters were dictated by the State. Cynthia added calcium and alkalinity for potential of zebra mussels.
    - Mark wanted to know what the Conductivity Meter measures. Jim said it measures road salt/salinity coming into the lake.
  - **Mark seconded the motion to purchase the equipment.**
    - Jim is donating \$100 to the cost of equipment.
      - **Vote: 7-0-0 (motion passed)**
      - Tim will prepare a purchase order and will bring it to Julian for signature.
      - Tim wants it purchased so it is on hand for the September sampling.
      - Tim will continue helping with sampling. BPAC can watch and learn in September and do additional samplings, as desired.
      - **Next sampling: September 16 at 10 am at the boat launch. BPAC welcome to join.**

- **Lisi property (west side of Ball Pond Brook) removal of pink water lilies**
  - Elissa met owners. They were very nice about keeping natives. They have pink water lilies and yellow flag irises (invasives). They would be interested in having them removed if a contractor is hired. Elissa wanted to know if NE Aquatics would take both the pink water lilies and yellow irises. The owner was also concerned about tires and floating cans. They want to put sand down. Tim said the owners, who have wetlands approval, will be removing trash and adding sand.
  - Mark wanted to know if they would be contributing financially to the removal of the pink water lilies. Mark said maybe the effort should be coordinated with New England Aquatics. Tim said they were committed to it. Mark, who swims almost daily, Tim and Pete said they have not seen a lot of pink water lilies.
  - Mark made a motion to hire New England Aquatics to pull pink water lilies and yellow flag irises within the boundaries of pond. Tim questioned if there was enough for New England Aquatics to pull, maybe BPAC can do themselves locally. Tim, Jim and George felt there was not enough to hire New England Aquatics. George elaborated that he doesn't feel there is enough to hire New England Aquatics. He said the yellow flag irises are on people's private property. They are not an aquatic plant. Permission would be needed from property owners. He also said families have never been approached to chip in before. Tim suggested they join committee or make a donation.
  - Mark withdrew his motion.
- **Boat for BPAC**
  - Mark said the boat used was very heavy. He would like to see a 10-foot Jon boat, unless George is always going to be available.
  - George said BPAC can get a trailer for the heavy boat, which can be kept at Public Works. A larger boat is more comfortable. A 10-foot Jon Boat can only take two people.
  - George said one of the abandoned boats should work.
  - Julian said one of the abandoned boats has a trailer.
  - George said he would go over with Mark and Julian to look at boat and trailer.
  - Mark wants to go this Saturday to look at the abandoned boat and trailer. He will send an email to George and Julian to arrange time.
- **Adjournment**
  - Mark made a motion to adjourn at 5:39 pm

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF BPAC IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

Lisa Arasim  
Secretary, Ball Pond Advisory Committee