

**Ball Pond Advisory Committee
Virtual Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Minutes
7 PM**

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

Call the Meeting to Order

Julian called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2021

Two small changes were requested:

- Under Nitrate Levels in Ball Pond, Jim Mellett asked to change in sentence one: “he wants to broadcast a ban on fertilizers around Ball Pond” to “he wants to ban broadcasting fertilizers around Ball Pond”.
- Under Nitrate Levels in Ball Pond, Pete asked that a decimal be added to last year’s nitrate level under short paragraph 10 : “Elissa has nitrate levels from a year ago September. The nitrate level was 08 mg/l”. It should read .08 mg/l.
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Pete made a motion to accept the Minutes from January 5, 2021 as amended. Mark seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

No correspondence
No public comment

NEW ITEMS:

Budget Meeting update:

The BPAC requested budget for 2021-2022 was approved as \$7660 (\$7000 for lake management and \$660 for salaries)

CT DEEP Grant for Control of Aquatic Invasive Species:

- Elissa had circulated a copy of the completed application for the committee’s review prior to the meeting.
- The feedback from all committee members was very positive. Mark said it was beautifully written. George, who was not in the meeting sent an email of support, Jim thought it was superb.
- Elissa met with the Town’s Selectmen to discuss the grant and they were very supportive.

- The grant will be used to identify and monitor cyanobacteria in Ball Pond using Plankton Tows and Fluorometry. The amount being requested is just under \$3000, with a total cost for the project estimated at \$5249.23. The grant needs to be submitted by February 12, 2021.
- The grant includes a small stipend for a research assistant from Western CT State University. The committee was enthusiastic about forming a partnership with the University's research department.

Jim Mellett made a motion to accept the grant application written by Elissa Johnson, and to have her send it to the First Selectman's office and CT DEEP on behalf of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee. Mark Spellmann seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

Candlewood Lake Authority invasive education grant

Pete had shared an article from the *Danbury News Times* from January 24, 2021 that mentioned New Milford was applying for a grant to educate boaters on Candlewood Lake on invasive species. It is part of the Candlewood Lake Steward program from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Candlewood Lake Authority employees will visit public boat launches and provide educational materials and inspections.

Exposing Zebra mussels volunteer effort:

George Buck, who was not in the meeting, had circulated information to committee members on a volunteer effort to search for zebra mussels during Candlewood Lake's drawdown. There was a link to go to sign up: candlewoodlakeauthority.org/zebramussels. You receive a map showing areas that have not been searched yet.

Julian mentioned that John McCartney wrote an article that is worth a read regarding zebra mussels on a New Fairfield Facebook page.

Newsletter/news article

Jim and Pete are writing an article to educate the public on the dangers of using fertilizers in the water shed. Jim will modify the article he wrote last year. He has coined the phrase "Toxic Lake Syndrome". He wants to ban broadcast fertilizers. Many have weed killer in it. He would not be opposed to an ordinance banning fertilizers. Julian would like to hold off on doing an ordinance and try education first. Elissa has mixed feelings on an ordinance. It is an option if education does not work. Mark felt the town may be receptive to an ordinance. Elissa suggested researching what is involved with an ordinance, what have other towns done? What parameters were included in other similar ordinances? Monica suggested starting with the CT article of a dog dying as a result of dangerous lake water. Jim and Pete will have a draft of the newsletter completed for committee members by the end of February.

Adjournment

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. The motion was seconded by Jim.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion passed)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Arasim

Lisa Arasim
Recording Secretary
Ball Pond Advisory Committee