

Minutes for the September 5, 2019 Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

Originally planned at the Library Media Room at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, 1776 Main Street, Coventry, CT – moved to the Teachers Room at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road, Coventry, due to the schools' scheduling conflict.

John Petrovits called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Sharon Morel, John Petrovits, Sharon Powers, Ray Shedrick, and Dave Sutherland.

Audience of Members: Several community members were present. One community member discussed how Freedom of Information laws prohibit Board members from discussing Association business with each other outside of public meetings. They can, however, talk with other Association members to help inform them and encourage participation at meetings and other events.

Minutes: Minutes from the July 11, 2019, GPA Board meeting were approved with no amendments.

President's Report: John Petrovits reported that:

- Our Association received a certificate of appreciation from CoventryFest for our donation this year.
- The swim floats made it through the season and will be coming down. We have new floats to put up for next year.
- We need members to help out with the beach improvements the weekend of Oct. 5 & 6. Some Board and Association members will be providing refreshments for the volunteers.
- We also need volunteers to serve on the Board to replace three Directors whose terms are expiring. All interested are urged to come to the Sept. 26 Annual Meeting, where a vote on new Board members will be taken.

Tax Collector's Report: Current taxes billed were \$9,541.54 with a 90% expected collection rate.

Treasurer's Report: The Association's current budget was presented. Some good news is that while \$5,000 was budgeted to take down the dangerous tree at the end of Avery Shores, the actual cost to the Association was only \$2,260.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: Discussed under Old Business.

Beach and Beautification: As discussed in the President's Report, volunteers are needed to help with the beach improvements work. This is extremely important to keep costs within our budget. The work will begin the weekend of Oct. 5-6 and may need to be continued the weekend of Oct. 12-13. Anyone who can volunteer their time, even for just an hour or two, is asked to send an email to geraldparkcoventry@gmail.com. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9am but are welcome to come later if their schedule allows.

Environmental: This summer's second lake hydrilla treatment was on Aug. 28, and one more is planned for September. There was a discussion of several large dead carp found floating, but this apparently is a natural occurrence.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Harvey Barrett could not attend the meeting but sent information saying he was able to negotiate a per-gallon price of \$2.28, and maybe lower, for fuel oil. Any GPA resident who would like to participate in a group purchase to have fuel oil delivered for the heating season should contact Harvey at lakefront2244@att.net. Harvey is looking into the possibility of three deliveries this year instead of two. The more people who participate, the greater the savings.

Gerald Park Day: Our annual picnic at the beach was a success despite the hot day with heat indexes into the 100s. Thanks to all who helped that day and especially to John Petrovits for grilling the burgers, hot dogs and sausage despite the heat!

Website: Lisa Catanese reported that due to the size of our website, we had to upgrade our plan from free to \$2 a month. She is donating that cost until the next budget year. Total cost of the website each year is expected to be \$15 for the URL and \$24 for a year of hosting, for a total of \$39 a year.

Welcome to GPA: Our Association is welcoming a new resident/family due to the sale of a home on the east end of Avery Shores.

OLD BUSINESS:

A failing tree at the end of Avery Shores was taken down. As discussed in the Treasurer's Report, the cost was less than half of what was budgeted. The tree had been identified as hazardous by the town at the time the property was owned by the GPA but was later discovered to be part of the property turned over to the adjacent homeowner. The homeowner volunteered to reimburse the Association for 15% of the cost; his check has been received.

A GPA member expressed concern about some overgrowth of shrubs intruding into Avery Shores. In the past, the town has regularly cut back these shrubs but has not done so this year. The owner of the property where the overgrowth is occurring offered to do some trimming.

Regarding the Avery Shores road turnover efforts, Attorney Walter Twatchman, who represents the GPA, prepared an informational document and is planning to meet with the Town Attorney to discuss it. An area of concern for GPA members in the past was the provision for a 50-foot right-of-way easement for town-owned roads. As discussed at the June budget meeting, the town already has this easement in place for Avery Shores; it was a perpetual easement signed years ago by former GPA Board officers at the time of the sewer installment.

As discussed in the President's Report and under Committee Reports, beach improvement work is planned for the weekend of Oct. 5-6. Board member Jim Cropley is donating his equipment, and the Association has budgeted the funds to pay for the materials. In order to avoid a further cost to the Association for labor, a number of volunteers are needed to do the work, which is not expected to be heavy labor. Anyone who can volunteer is asked to sign up through our website, www.GeraldParkCoventry.com, so we'll know how many people to expect.

NEW BUSINESS:

An Association member expressed interest in obtaining a piece of GPA-owned “right-of-way” property that is not connected to their property. Board members agreed that a non-abutter should not be able to obtain property in this way. John Petrovits will communicate this to the member.

Next meeting: The next meeting is the GPA Annual Meeting, at which three seats need to be filled on the Board of Directors. It will be held Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7pm in the Café of Coventry High School. A map with directions is on the GPA website. All Association members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.