

Minutes for the September 17, 2025, GPA Annual Meeting

Minutes taken by board secretary Lisa Catanese

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Pam Crolley, Lisa Lowell, Eric Miller, Teri Norman, Raymond Perugini, Darby Pollansky, Kevin Ryan, and Dave Sutherland. Also present was Laura Young, GPA tax collector, and approximately 20 GPA members.

Audience of Members: Michelle, who declined to give her last name but said she was renting a home on Ross Avenue, discussed the potential hazards of cell phone towers and lake chemicals used to combat hydrilla. Teri Norman said her kayak, which was lying next to the kayak rack, was stolen from the beach.

Minutes: Minutes from the August 20, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting were approved. Motion by Teri Norman, second by Raymond Perugini, approved 7-0 with 2 abstentions from those Board members who had not been present at that meeting.

President's Report: Eric Miller asked if anyone will be available to help remove the swim ropes for the season. He also noted that the Town of Coventry now officially owns Avery Shores. The road is due to be paved in 2026, although there have been some delays in paving town-wide due to budget constraints.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young submitted a report showing an 89.2% tax collection rate so far this year. Taxes and fees collected were \$12,224, with \$12,219 due to the GPA from delinquent properties. Of that amount, \$11,379 were habitually delinquent and \$840 were newly delinquent. Laura sent reminder bills, along with a letter encouraging delinquent residents to contact her to discuss payment options, on August 31.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Lowell shared a report showing that spending is on track for the fiscal year (July 1—June 30), with \$5,727.45 spent to date from the total budget of \$27,575.00.

Committee Reports:

- **Beach/Beautification:** Dave Sutherland reported that three new picnic tables have been purchased for the beach to replace the old wooden tables, and volunteers have improved the truck access to make walking on it easier. He also said a small walkway to the beach will be painted in the parking area so that cars can avoid parking there, making access easier.
- **Member Involvement:** A smores night is tentatively being planned for Sunday, October 5, weather permitting. Details will be shared when plans are finalized.
- **Environmental:** Pam Crolley and Darby Pollansky reported on a State of the Lake forum that was recently held. There are concerns about the levels of phosphorus in the lake, and cyanobacteria was found below 25 feet, which can be a hazard if it rises to the surface. Goose droppings are one cause of lake pollution, but the largest problem is lawn chemicals used to make grass attractive but which run off into the lake. They suggested that lakefront residents do not cut their grass from five feet up from the water's edge, to catch some of the rainwater runoff, and that anyone living near the lake avoid using fertilizers.
- **Fuel Oil Cooperative:** Ben Emanuele is coordinating this again for the winter.
- **Website:** No report.
- **Welcome to GPA:** Lisa Lowell reported that several newcomers have moved to the Gerald Park Association and have received Welcome Baskets.
- **Bylaws and Park Rules:** On hold.
- **GPA Taxes:** On hold.

OLD BUSINESS:

Future of GPA-owned “paper roads”: A discussion ensued about what to do with these roads (Chase and Overholt), which are tree-covered and exist on paper only. One idea was to ask abutting property owners if they would like the GPA to quit-claim the portions adjacent to their lots. However, the properties would need to be surveyed at considerable cost, and there is no guarantee that all abutting property owners would accept the land. Another idea is to clear-cut the properties so they could be used as walking paths. A committee was formed to look into options and cost, consisting of Darby Pollansky, Dave Sutherland, Eric Roy, and Mary Ann Hansen.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote to fill three seats on the GPA Board: Each year, three terms on the nine-member GPA Board of Directors expire and are filled by a vote at the Annual Meeting. This year the terms of Raymond Perugini, Pam Cropley, and Teri Norman are expiring. Nominated were Raymond Perugini, Teri Norman, Bill Piotroski, Jackie Roy, and Jim Cropley. A vote by paper ballot was taken. The three highest vote-getters were Raymond Perugini, Bill Piotroski, and Jim Cropley, so they will fill a three-year term on our volunteer Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: At the conclusion of the meeting, the new Board met to choose officers and to determine the date of the next meeting. Officers unanimously chosen were Eric Miller, president; Raymond Perugini, vice president; Lisa Lowell, treasurer, and Lisa Catanese, secretary. The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 29, at 6pm.