

Minutes for the September 9, 2020

Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

Held at the Gerald Park Beach, Avery Shores, Coventry, CT

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Sharon Morel, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland.

Audience of Members: Six GPA members were present.

- One resident expressed interest in joining the Board, and John Petrovits explained the qualification and nomination process.
- Another resident commented on the odor from the lake and asked whether the lake was still OK for swimming. Board members explained that the odor was due to the low water level and that the lake is safe for swimming.

Minutes: Minutes from the August 5, 2020, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved with no changes.

President's Report: John Petrovits reported the following:

- The beach has been very crowded, and there is a concern that it is being utilized by people outside of our Association. There was at least one instance of an unpleasant confrontation with a GPA member who questioned several people; therefore, the recommendation is that such questions be done by two people together who could support each other if defied. This was discussed further under New Business.
- There may be as many as four open terms to fill on the GPA Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on September 24. Any Association members who would like to serve on the Board are encouraged to come to that meeting to express interest. No experience is necessary.
- Jim Cropley will be finishing the beach renovation within the next few weeks. This will include relocating the bench on the right side as you face the water in order to take steps to control the erosion, and putting down pavers to create a walkway from the parking lot to the beach.

Tax Collector's Report: The GPA has an 81.74% tax collection rate so far this year. This is considered low, but it is likely due to members' ability to defer their payment until October 31 in consideration of financial issues related to COVID.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland said the current checkbook balance is close to \$10,000, so we should be able to pay our bills despite the low collection rate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beach & Beautification:

- Dave Sutherland, who maintains the beach, reported that there are new tipper barrels for trash and recycling. He also will be calling to have the port-a-potty removed for the end of the season.
- A discussion ensued about members' requests to have a new child-safe toy box at the beach to replace the one that was broken and removed in the spring. A donation would be appreciated.
- There is invasive bamboo growing along the sides of the park. Dave Sutherland will continue to cut it back when he mows in an attempt to control the spread.
- GPA members are asked to volunteer to help with our fall cleanup, which will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 9:00 am.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: The expectation is that Harvey Barrett will continue this in the fall. GPA members interested in participating should contact Harvey. He then will contract a group rate with a local oil company; in the past has gotten everyone who participates a discount of 20 to 25 cents per gallon.

Gerald Park Day: Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Gerald Park Day was canceled this year.

Member Involvement Committee: This committee includes board members Linda Blakesley, Dave Sutherland, and Raymond Perugini, as well as GPA member Kelly Sutherland. Plans are in the works for another movie night at the beach and another evening group kayak. Details will be posted on the GPA Facebook page and on the GPA website.

Website: Nothing to report.

Welcome to GPA: GPA member Linda Comeau has delivered Welcome Baskets to all of the new residents.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road work on the east end of Avery Shores: Raymond Perugini obtained a quote for \$2,000 for asphalt repairs. Board members voted unanimously to proceed with the work. In addition, a discussion will be held with residents about steps they could take themselves to protect their property from flooding and icing.

Construction of a new kayak/canoe rack: This will be a spring project; volunteers will be needed to help construct it.

Airbnb in the Association: Some residents expressed concern about people renting an Airbnb who were using the GPA beach and inviting others to join them. The bylaws specifically state the beach is open to members and their guests, so those not staying at the Airbnb would not be considered “guests” and should not be able to use the beach. John Petrovits discussed the issue of liability with our insurance agent and was told the Airbnb owners would need to carry as much hazard insurance as the GPA does, which is \$1 million. There was also a concern that alcohol may have been brought to the beach by the renters; the Airbnb owners should ensure that all of their renters have a copy of our beach rules. This will be discussed further at the Annual Meeting on Sept 24.

GPA member identification ideas: Raymond Perugini said he can have stickers made at no cost for the kayaks that are kept at the beach, to help with easy identification of the owners if needed, as well as signs that could be hung on the rear-view mirrors of cars to indicate GPA membership.

Fall meeting agenda: Included on the agenda for the Annual Meeting on Sept. 24 will be a discussion of beach rules, a discussion of Airbnb issues, and an election of new Board members and officers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of the bylaws.** The bylaws may need to be updated to reflect more current times and communications tools. This will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is the Annual Meeting, to be held Thursday, Sept. 24, at 6:00 pm at the beach (rain date Sept. 25). Social distancing will be practiced. Please bring masks and flashlights.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.