

Minutes for the August 10, 2022, Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting Held via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Eric Miller, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, Syd Seale, and Dave Sutherland. Absent were Teri Norman and Kevin Ryan. Also present was Laura Young, the GPA tax collector, and Lisa Lowell, who coordinates the Welcome Baskets.

Audience of Members: None.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 29, 2022, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved with one change: changing "Board" to "GPA" on page 2. Motion by Eric Miller, seconded by John Petrovits, unanimously approved. In addition, Lisa Catanese said that going forward, she will be including the first name and last initial of GPA members who speak during the Audience of Members portion of the meeting as well as a brief overview of the topic they address.

President's Report: Eric Miller said that our neighborhood should refer to the Eastern Highlands Health District website at www.ehhd.org for information related to the health of the lake and any swimming restrictions. He also said a big thank you goes to those board members and volunteers who donated their time to make the Gerald Park picnic such an enjoyable and successful event.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young reported an 80.43% tax collection rate to date. Total tax collected to date was \$25,774.72. Regarding the ability to pay later in the year at no interest, she said that was a one-time allowance by the state of Connecticut due to COVID, and the GPA cannot legally extend that into this year. She will send out reminder notices on Sept. 1 to any delinquent households along with late fees, and they will need to pay by Sept. 30 to avoid additional fees. Late fees are either \$2.00 or 2% of the total tax bill, whichever is greater.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland submitted a report showing that the budget spending is on track, with no unanticipated expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: John Petrovits reported that the attorney representing the GPA has requested meetings with several long-time residents to share their experiences with the road turnover. A judge's decision on the Writ of Mandamus is expected either at the end of 2022 or early 2023, which should finally settle the issue of who owns Avery Shores.

Beach & Beautification: Kelley Sutherland submitted a report stating that there may be an opportunity to do some fall plantings at the park.

Member Involvement Committee: Full moon kayaking will be held on August 11 and September 10. The movie night scheduled for Saturday, August 13, was moved to Saturday, August 27.

Environmental: After public beaches were closed by the Eastern Highlands Health District and the state DEEP due to a toxic algae bloom, the lake is now open. Two additional hydrilla treatments are planned for this season.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Eric Miller will reach out to Ben Emanuele to ask if he would coordinate this service again this winter.

Website: No updates.

Welcome to GPA: Lisa Lowell reported that we have several new GPA neighbors, and she will be picking up some supplies for their Welcome Baskets.

Bylaws subcommittee: On hold.

GPA taxes subcommittee: On hold.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chase Avenue property: In response to a request by individuals building a house adjacent to Chase Avenue (a paper road) that GPA pay \$2500 to remove some dead trees that are possibly on GPA property, Pam Cropley looked into some options. It's still unclear which of the trees are actually on Chase Avenue, and whether they do need to come down. GPA members voted in June not to include funds for the tree removal in this year's budget. Eric Miller will send a letter to the property owners asking to see a survey map to help determine where the property lines are and informing them that they may take down the trees themselves even if they are on GPA property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liability insurance. The issue is that each year's premium is due right at the time of our budget process, so we often don't know the actual amount to budget for and sometimes need time to collect taxes in order to pay it, since it's one of the largest budget line items. In response to a request by Dave Sutherland, our insurance company said the GPA could pay for an extra month of coverage, which would move the due-date back a month for the next year's premium.

Repairs at the beach. At the June budget meeting, GPA members approved funds to pay for repairs due to rainwater run-off. Pam Cropley will ask Jim Cropley about starting this work in the fall.

September meeting agenda items. In preparation for the Annual Meeting on September 14, the board approved three items to be listed on the postcards:

- The election of 3 board members (terms of Pam Cropley, Raymond Perugini, and Teri Norman are expiring).
- The paper roads issue.
- Decorum at GPA meetings.

The meeting will be held at 6pm. The location is to be determined, but the hope is to have it at a nearby school facility that could accommodate a larger crowd, to eliminate worries about the weather or darkness if held at the GPA park.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: To be set after the September 14 Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.