

Minutes for the September 10, 2026, GPA Annual Meeting

Minutes recorded by board secretary Lisa Catanese

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Jim Cropley, Lisa Lowell, Bill Piotroski, Darby Pollansky, Jackie Roy, Kevin Ryan, and Dave Sutherland; Raymond Perugini attended via Zoom to deliver his report. Also present were Laura Young, GPA tax collector, and 16 GPA members.

Audience of Members: Charlotte Anderson asked about adding a Little Free Library at the beach. Those present thought it was a nice idea. Charlotte said she would look into setting it up.

Minutes: Minutes from the August 19, 2026, Board of Directors meeting were approved. Motion by Dave Sutherland, second by Kevin Ryan, unanimously approved.

President's Report: Jim Cropley thanked those who participated in GPA activities this season and reported that (1) the ice cream social and GPA 75th birthday was a great event with many participating, including those who joined the full moon paddle; (2) he painted stripes at the beach to indicate parking places and the walkway; (3) the Town expects to pave Avery Shores this fall; (4) Jim is planning to reseed the lawn on the shed side of the beach, and after the Town fixes the drainage on the other side, that side of the lawn may be reseeded as well.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young presented a report showing an 86.57% collection rate. There are 32 newly delinquent accounts, accounting for \$1,419, and she has sent out a September 1 reminder bill to them. Six accounts are habitually delinquent, with \$6,612 owed to the GPA; those accounts are between 4 and 15 years' delinquent.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Lowell presented a report that showed a total of \$3,613 has been spent so far this fiscal year (which started June 1) from the total 2026-27 budget of \$24,525. The Capital Improvement Fund has a balance of \$40,504. GPA member Bill Thurston asked if that balance could be transferred into a high-yield savings account. Lisa Lowell said she would investigate options.

Committee Reports:

- **Beach/Beautification:** Dave Sutherland said the fall beach clean-up will be planned for November, possibly the 7th or 14th, after most of the leaves have come down.
- **Member Involvement:** Raymond Perugini report that the swim ropes will need to be removed, possibly on September 19 or 26. Kayaks must be removed by November 1. He also said planning has begun for 2027 activities. Under consideration are pairing a hot dog roast or smores night with full moon paddles; a GPA tag sale in spring; a winter bonfire with hot chocolate and possibly ice skating; a snow sculpture contest; and a Friday night mocktail/cocktail crawl through the neighborhood. Anyone interested in coordinating these events should reach out to Raymond.
- **Environmental:** Lisa Catanese said biweekly reports regarding water quality at the GPA beach showed that *e. coli* levels have been very low for the entire summer.
- **Fuel Oil Cooperative:** Ben Emanuele has coordinated this in the past. Bill Piotroski said he would reach out to Ben to ask if he is willing to do it again this season.
- **Paper Roads:** No report.
- **Website:** No report.
- **Welcome to GPA:** Karen Burrington reported that she has delivered Welcome Baskets to eight new residents since June 2026, on Avery Shores, Morin Avenue, Dooley Avenue, Washburn Avenue, Fitzgerald Blvd, and South Street.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Update on filing of GPA bylaws:** Jim Cropley reported that he filed the original and updated bylaws with the Town of Coventry. Stamped and certified copies will be placed in the lockbox that is kept in the shed at the park.
- **Update on having an arborist assess tree health in the park.** Jim Cropley said he is working with an arborist to come to examine the trees, but scheduling has been difficult. The arborist, who is not a tree cutter, is willing to assess the trees at no cost. Jim is hoping to schedule a meeting this fall.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Vote to fill three Board seats:** The terms held by Lisa Catanese, Darby Pollansky, and Jackie Roy are expiring. Lisa Catanese nominated Darby Pollansky for another term. Kevin Ryan nominated Lisa Catanese, and Jim Cropley nominated Jackie Roy. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken, and all three were confirmed for another three-year term on the Board.
- **Discussion regarding beach permit stickers for GPA members:** A discussion was held about how to patrol the beach if permits were issued. Dave and Kelly Sutherland, who live across from the beach, said they have seen no misuse of the beach during the day and that there always seems to be plenty of room. There is also a question of who would enforce the permits. There are “private property, no trespassing” signs posted, and it’s possible that this is adequate. Lisa Lowell said she would look into our insurance policy to confirm that we would be covered if someone who trespassed was injured.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at 6pm via Zoom. At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the Board met briefly to set officers for the next year. They are Jim Cropley, president; Raymond Perugini, vice president; Lisa Lowell, treasurer; and Lisa Catanese, secretary.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.