

Minutes for the June 24, 2020 Gerald Park Association Annual Budget Meeting

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

John Petrovits called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Steve Belanger, Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Sharon Morel, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland. Also present was Laura Young, GPA's tax collector.

Audience of Members: Open meeting; approximately 30 GPA members were present.

Minutes: Minutes from September 26, 2019, Annual Meeting were approved with no amendments.

President's Report: The beach wall installed late last fall by GPA member Jim Cropley, with the help of volunteers, has reduced runoff on the beach, which is great news. The finish work and walkway still need to be done. The Sutherlands were thanked for putting the old timbers along the beachline to form a separation between grass and sand.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young reported a 98.26% collection rate, which is excellent and very much appreciated. When GPA budgets are planned, the anticipation is for a 93% collection rate, so this high payment rate in effect can lower taxes for everyone. Tax bills will go out July 1. Due to the Governor's tax deferment plan in light of COVID-19, GPA members will have up to 90 days to pay instead of the usual 30, although those who are able to pay within the month are asked to do so.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland shared the current budget statement showing nearly all line items for the current year are either at or under budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores turnover: No movement on this due to other priorities from COVID-19.

Beach & Beautification: Discussed in the President's Report.

Environmental: A new invasive species, water chestnut, was discovered in small areas of the lake. The Coventry Lake Advisory Committee has asked resident who may see it to take photos and report it. A link to the committee's website will be placed on the GPA website. The committee will be sending out a newsletter with important lake information in the next week or two. Fortunately, the hydrilla treatments seem to be working.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: On pause for the summer.

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

Member Involvement Committee (inadvertently omitted from agenda): Linda Blakesley reported that most planned activities are on hold, but a movie night at the beach may still be a possibility. GPA members can check our website or Facebook page for updates.

Website: Lisa Catanese invited GPA members to visit the GPA website, geraldparkcoventry.com, to see the latest news, photos, meeting minutes and more, including a page for Lost/Found/Buy/Sell where any resident can ask for a posting.

Welcome to GPA: Linda Comeau is delivering gift baskets to several new families who have recently moved to our lake community.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Petrovits presented a line-by-line summary of the proposed 2020-2021 budget. He explained that in light of the current pandemic, Board members felt strongly that the total budget should be kept the same as last year's, with no increase in total spending.
- The funds to finish the beach work were offset by cost savings in other areas, such as no funding for Gerald Park Day or the fireworks.
- As per last year's budget meeting, a line item was added for a future storage shed at the beach. A starter amount of \$1,000 was added to this line item for the 2020-2021 budget.
- Members expressed concern about work that is needed at the east end of Avery Shores. A motion was made and seconded to set aside up to \$2,000 from the Capital Improvements Fund for work on potholes and erosion issues. The motion was passed by a vote of 19-1.
- A discussion ensued about the need for another kayak rack at the beach, or to replace one of the existing racks with a different design that holds more kayaks. If enough volunteers step up to build it, funds from the Beautification line item in the budget could be used to purchase the materials.
- A member requested that when the beach walkway is finished, some lines be painted in front so that no one parks right in front of it. The member also asked if a handrail was possible along the walkway. John Petrovits will discuss the possibility with Jim Cropley, who will be doing the work.
- A discussion was held, but no vote taken, on whether to add back a GPA contribution to the town fireworks, since in effect it would be a contribution for the 2021 season.
- A motion was made and seconded for the proposed budget to be accepted as presented, with the additional \$2,000 set aside from Capital Improvements. The motion passed unanimously.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Annual Meeting: The GPA Annual Meeting will be held September 24, 2020, at 7:00pm at the GPA beach (rain date September 25). As per our bylaws, three seats on the Board of Directors are open for election/reelection at each year's Annual Meeting.

Next Board meeting: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9, at 6:30pm at the GPA beach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.