

Minutes for the May 19, 2021
Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting
Held at the GPA Park

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Pam Crolepy, Eric Miller, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland. Absent were Steve Belanger, Linda Blakesley, Raymond Perugini, and Kevin Ryan.

Audience of Members: Kelly Sutherland, a member of the Member Involvement Committee, and Laura Young, GPA tax collector, also were present. Kelly asked that the Board consider adding funds to the 2021-22 budget to cover the cost of a weed barrier and some additional shrubs to beautify the beach.

Minutes: Minutes from the April 15, 2021, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved with no changes.

President's Report: Linda Blakesley had submitted a report stating that:

- She has emailed the chair of the town's Steering Committee twice to get us on the agenda for an upcoming meeting, but has not received a response. Since the town has not responded to GPA requests, John Petrovits will ask our attorney to reach out to the town's attorney to further discuss this issue.
- The beach cleanup on May 15 went well, with about 15 people volunteering to help. Swim ropes and one speed bump were installed. John Petrovits said he will buy bolts so that the second speed bump can be installed.
- All 12 kayak spots for the 2021 season have been assigned.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young stated that several more payments were received, but a few more property liens were put into place. A discussion ensued about how the GPA should proceed with accounts that have been delinquent for many years. Pam Crolepy will work with Laura on this.

In addition, Board member agreed to raise the collection rate estimate to 95% for the upcoming budget year. For the past two years, our collection rate has been at 98%, thanks to Laura's excellent efforts as our tax collector, so setting it at 95% gives a cushion while providing a more realistic approach to our Association's assets.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland submitted a report showing most line items are on track or under estimates; however, several more bills are expected to be paid within the next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: Discussed under President's Report.

Beach & Beautification: The Board agreed that adding funds to improve the appearance of the beach is a good idea. This will be presented to members at the June budget meeting. Board members also noted the need to replace or repair some of the wooden picnic tables at the beach. These funds also would need to be included in the proposed 2021-22 budget.

Member Involvement Committee: Some enjoyable summer activities have been planned and are listed on the GPA website. The planned walk-around on May 6 did not happen and has been rescheduled for June 21, just before the budget meeting.

Environmental: No report.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Finished for the season.

Website: Lisa Catanese renewed our URL for another two years.

Welcome to GPA: Board members discussed slightly increasing the amount budgeted for the gift baskets in light of the increase in home sales in our Association.

Bylaws and Park Rules subcommittee: The final draft of the new rules developed by the subcommittee will be presented to GPA members at the June budget meeting for their approval.

GPA taxes subcommittee: This continues to be on hold for the time being.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building of the new kayak rack: Due to the recent increase in costs for the needed materials, the amount budgeted for this is several hundred dollars short. The additional funds needed will be included in the 2021-22 budget to be voted on by GPA members.

Storage shed: Board members support adding another \$1000 to the 2021-22 budget to bring the total to \$2,000.

Letter from Town regarding available road funds: Continues to be on hold.

Format request to add road turnover to Steering Committee agenda: Discussed under Committee Reports.

Tree health at the park: A tree service that was supposed to give an estimate on taking down some branches did not show up. Pam Cropley provided the names and numbers of two other services, and Eric Miller will contact them.

Drain washout at the beach: GPA members will continue to keep an eye on the repair work done by the town to ensure it's working to stop the erosion.

Blighted property within GPA: A dumpster is now located on the property, and town officials are working with the homeowner on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Storage shed consideration: Ellington High School, in coordination with Kloter Farms, may have a program to build items such as a shed. If GPA members agree to add funds for the purchase of a shed, this may be a lower-cost option for the Board to explore.

Consideration of planned landscaping at the beach. Discussed under Audience of Members.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Tuesday, June 1, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in the GPA park if the weather cooperates; otherwise, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.