

Minutes for the June 3, 2026, Gerald Park Association Budget Meeting

Held at the Coventry High School Lecture Hall, minutes taken 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, Raymond Perugini, Bill Piotroski, Jackie Roy, Kevin Ryan, and Dave Sutherland. Darby Pollansky took a leave of absence from the Board following the loss of her husband, but she attended as an audience member. About 28 GPA members also were present as well as GPA tax collector Laura Young.

Audience of Members: Jay Blakesley said he was disappointed that he is not allowed to keep a kayak on the beach racks because he is delinquent on his GPA taxes. He noted that he was among the individuals who helped to build the kayak racks years ago. Charlotte Anderson said that the new beach bulletin board obscures the private property sign. Kelley Sutherland said the sign asking beach-goers to help clean up goose droppings needs to be improved. Jim Cropley said there are plans to redo and re-hang all of the signs at the beach. Charlotte Anderson asked if a small area of the parking lot could be painted to indicate it is a walkway to the park, and that a walkway to the beach area be added. Jim Cropley said the area would be painted and that there are plans to add a walkway to the beach area after the Town replaces the drain that runs from Avery Shores to the lake, to fix the erosion issue at the beach.

Minutes: Minutes from the May 6, 2026, Board of Directors meeting were approved. Motion by Raymond Perugini second by Dave Sutherland, approved unanimously.

President's Report: Jim Cropley explained that he is filling in as temporary GPA president in light of Eric Miller's move away from Gerald Park. He also said that the Board agreed to hire a professional mower to mow the park area going forward, since it was important to have an insured individual doing this work.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young presented a report showing a 99.24% collection rate for current taxes. Delinquent taxes and fees currently amount to \$6,278.63. She also explained how GPA taxes are calculated and collected.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Lowell presented the current budget showing that all but one line item came in at or under budget. The only item over budget was Legal Notices, which is slightly over. So far this fiscal year, the GPA spent \$18,479, with the biggest expense being insurance costs. Several more bills will need to be paid before the current budget year ends on June 30.

Committee Reports:

- **Beach/Beautification:** Kelley Sutherland thanked volunteers who help at park cleanups in the spring and fall, and noted that any GPA volunteers are welcome to help with plantings, cleanup, and other beautification efforts. Dave Sutherland noted that three new picnic tables have been purchased to replace the failing wood tables. John Petrovits suggested that the Board hire an arborist in the new future to assess the health of the trees at the park, noting that it's been several years since the last assessment of tree health and many of the trees are aging.
- **Member Involvement:** Raymond Perugini said this year's events include full-moon kayaking, a Smores Night to coincide with the Town fireworks on June 27, and the Gerald Park annual picnic on July 18. These events are also listed and described in more detail on the GPA website, www.GeraldParkCoventry.com.
- **Environmental:** No report.
- **Fuel Oil Cooperative:** No report.
- **Paper Roads:** No report.
- **Website:** No report.

- **Welcome to GPA:** Karen Burrington is now coordinating this. Discussion ensued about how we can know who has moved into the GPA, since it is often done word-of-mouth. Lisa Catanese said she will put a notice on the beach bulletin board asking newcomers to reach out via email, and will also put this same notice on the GPA website, so that we can deliver a Welcome Gift to them.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and vote on approval of the 2026-27 proposed budget: Lisa Lowell went through each line item of the proposed budget, which runs from July 1 to June 30 each year. The proposed budget is \$3,000 less than the last year's budget. Several suggestions and comments were made by GPA members:

- Jerry Dallas made a motion that another \$150 be added to the Legal Notices line item, to cover the cost of filing GPA Bylaws with the Town of Coventry. Motion seconded by Darby Pollansky, unanimously approved 22-0.
- John Petrovits stressed the importance of building up the Capital Improvement Fund for future expenses, such as fixing any problems that arise from the drainage system along Avery Shores, since the GPA maintains control over those drains. Jim Cropley noted that the cost to fix a single drain was estimated to be around \$30,000 to \$40,000. After discussion, the Board suggested that \$5,000, as well as any excess funds after expenses are paid, be moved to the Capital Improvement Fund, as long as the mil rate remains the same as the current year.
- John Petrovits then moved that the proposed budget in the amount of \$24,525 be approved, seconded by Darby Pollansky. The motion passed 20-1.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.