

Minutes for the November 6, 2019 Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

Held at the Library Media Room at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, 1776 Main Street, Coventry, CT

John Petrovits called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Steve Bellanger, Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Sharon Morel, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland. Raymond Perugini arrived at 8pm.

Audience of Members: Linda Blakesley questioned whether the plastic bags distributed by Scouts around Halloween to collect food are picked up again if they haven't been filled, since they could blow around the neighborhood and may end up in the lake. Several Board members said they were aware of a directive to the Scouts to collect the empty bags at the time they pick up the filled ones.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 6, 2019, and September 5, 2019, GPA Board meetings were approved with no amendments.

President's Report: John Petrovits reported that it was encouraging to see how many people turned out in October to help with the beach beautifications work, including our new wall. Topsoil and seeding will be done in the spring on the grass side of the wall. Near the bench, rocks have been placed temporarily to help stop erosion cause by rainwater runoff; this erosion area will be fixed in the spring.

Tax Collector's Report: We've had a 90.14% collection rate, which is a little lower than in the past. John will ask Laura Young, our tax collector, about offering a possible payment plan for habitually delinquent accounts.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland presented the current budget. Of note: the beach repairs were budgeted at \$2,000 and the actual cost was \$1,895; and the tree work was budgeted at \$5,500 but came in at \$2,260.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beach: The fall cleanup date at the beach will be Saturday, Nov. 23, at 9am (rain date Nov. 24) and will consist mostly of raking leaves. Association members are needed to help out, even if they can stay only for a short time, so the Board is asking everyone to help spread the word.

Beautification: Extra cement blocks that are stacked at the beach will be used in the spring to finish the walkway. Additional funds to complete the final stage of the work will be discussed at our June 2020 budget meeting.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Harvey Barrett negotiated a good price for GPA members who participate, and the first delivery has been made. Any GPA resident who would like to participate in this group purchase to have fuel oil delivered for the heating season should contact Harvey at lakefront2244@gmail.com.

Member Involvement Committee: The Board brainstormed ideas on how to get more GPA members involved in Association activities. A subcommittee consisting of Linda Blakesley, Raymond Perugini and Dave Sutherland was formed, and they will be asking other Association members to join them. The goals are to obtain as many email addresses as possible so information can easily be shared, to encourage

people to attend Board meetings, and to plan fun activities such as movie night at the beach, a winter ice skating party, a s'mores night, etc. They also will work on suggestions for a three-year plan for the GPA going forward.

Website: Lisa Catanese reported that two new pages have been added to the site: Lost/Found/Buy/Sell, and Photos from various GPA activities

OLD BUSINESS:

A concern about an overgrowth of shrubs intruding into Avery Shores has been resolved; the property owner has trimmed the area.

Regarding the Avery Shores road turnover efforts, Attorney Walter Twatchman, who represents the GPA, prepared an informational document and sent it to the Town Attorney. The Town Attorney replied with some questions and comments. Atty Twatchman sent a response to those and is waiting to hear back. John Petrovits will ask Atty Twatchman about next steps in the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kayak/canoe/paddleboard racks – We stated a deadline of May 1 for applications for a space, but we haven't indicated a date on which all items must be removed. Board members picked a date of November 1 as the time when all personal items must be removed from the beach. Lisa Catanese will post this information on the website.

Dogs at the beach – Our beach rules state that dogs are only allowed at the beach from 6pm to 10am. Board members felt they could be allowed at the beach during the day in the off-season. The Board revised this rule as follows: From May 1 through September 30, dogs are allowed at the beach between 6pm and 10am only. From October 1 through April 30, dogs can be at the beach any time. Dogs are not allowed in the water within the swim ropes if people are swimming there, and owners must clean up after their dog at all times.

Next meeting: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 7pm at the Library Media Room at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.