

Minutes for the July 9, 2020

Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley (joined by phone), Sharon Morel, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland.

Audience of Members: None.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 3, 2020, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved. Linda Blakesley specified that in her comments during the Audience of Members portion of that June 3 meeting, she stands in solidarity with people of all backgrounds and specifically Black people.

President's Report: John Petrovits reported the following:

- It's nice to see so many people using the beach. However, there was some concern that people who do not live in our Association and who are not with Association members might be using the beach. Our liability insurance specifically states that the beach must be members only. Any GPA member may ask an unknown person at the beach where they live and may politely ask them to leave if they are not supposed to be there.
- Thank you to Dave and Kelly Sutherland for laying the old boards left over from the beach improvements into a nice border between the sand and grass. In addition, thank you to Dave for taking over lawn mowing and trash removal at the beach.

Tax Collector's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland reported that just under \$4400 has been spent from this year's budget, with almost all of it going toward our annual insurance payment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beach & Beautification: Jim Cropley, who had performed the beach improvement work last year, will finish the rest of the beach work as funded in the 2020-21 budget. This includes a walkway from the parking area. At the June budget meeting, there was a discussion about adding a handrail to that walkway. While the GPA is not required by law to make its facilities handicapped-accessible, we will do what we can within the confines of our budget and will discuss this option with Jim.

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: Planned activities are on hold due to COVID-19, but there is a possibility of showing an evening movie at the beach while observing social distancing.

Website: Lisa Catanese is keeping the website current with agendas, minutes, news, photos, etc.

Welcome to GPA: A number of new residents have moved to our Association and will receive Welcome Baskets.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- GPA Board members will solicit bids for the repairs at the east end of Avery Shores, funding for which was approved at the June budget meeting.
- A resident asked the GPA Board to take down three trees along Avery Shores that the town had identified as problematic. John Petrovits stated that:
 - The Association had taken down the three trees that were identified by the town; these are three different trees.
 - These three additional trees are not on Association property but rather are on property that had been turned over to this resident.
 - This resident had been asked some time ago to take down the trees but stated that an arborist had examined them and said they were fine
 - John will communicate this information to the resident.
- At the June budget meeting, GPA members approved the construction of a new kayak rack due to high demand. Board members discussed the option of constructing a third rack or taking apart the current wooden rack and re-using the lumber to make a larger one. They concluded that the best approach is to modify and reposition the current wood rack and to look into purchasing a rack and/or materials from a local surplus business. Some board members said they will look at racks at other lake associations to get design ideas and would take photos.
- Although the bottom line of the GPA's 2020-21 budget is the same as last year's, tax bills for some residents are higher. The town's 2019 property revaluation resulted in an increase in some assessments, on which the GPA taxes are based. In addition, taxes are calculated based on a 93% collection rate, but lately approximately 98% of residents are paying their GPA tax bills. Board members suggested that going forward, we might want to plan for a higher collection rate to help lower tax bills for everyone.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 6:30pm at the GPA beach.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.