

## **Minutes for the January 9, 2020 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 Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Sharon Morel, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland. Steve Bellanger arrived at 8pm.

**Audience of Members:** A member had asked if the GPA Board could address some construction equipment that seems to be abandoned on Avery Shores. The Board doesn't have the jurisdiction to act on this, but individual property owners can bring this up with the town. Lisa Catanese said she will email the member to let her know.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the November 6, 2019, GPA Board meeting was approved with no amendments.

**President's Report:** Discussed under Committee Reports and New Business.

**Tax Collector's Report:** We have 7 newly delinquent accounts and 9 habitually delinquent accounts; the total delinquent taxes and fees owed to our Association is \$4,142.84. As a follow up to a previously asked question, John Petrovits spoke with Laura Young, the tax collector, to investigate whether we can offer delinquent residents the possibility of paying in installments. She felt it was possible to offer a payment plan. The only initial stipulation was it would have to follow a tax year – 12 months. She will check with the town for any other issues to consider.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Sutherland presented the current budget. Expenses currently are on target.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Beach:** The new retaining wall and sand are holding up beautifully.

**Beautification:** The fall cleanup day was very successful and we had a good turnout of volunteers to help.

**Fuel Oil Cooperative:** Another fuel delivery was recently made at a significantly reduced cost, thanks to the efforts of Harvey Barrett in negotiating a good price for GPA members who participate.

**Gerald Park Day:** The Board set a date of Saturday, July 11 (rain date Sunday) for the 2020 Gerald Park Day.

**Member Involvement Committee:** The subcommittee consisting of Linda Blakesley, Raymond Perugini and Dave Sutherland will be meeting in the near future to brainstorm ways of encouraging people to attend Board meetings, planning fun activities, and working on a three-year plan for the GPA going forward.

**Website:** Lisa Catanese will continue to maintain the GPA website.

**Welcome to GPA:** Several new residents have joined our Association; John Petrovits will reach out to the member who has been providing Welcome baskets to ensure that baskets have or will be delivered to them.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Avery Shores Turnover:** Attorney Walter Twatchman, who represents the GPA, has not received a reply from the town regarding the letter he sent addressing the opinions of the Town Attorney. He suggested that the next step in the process would be to send a letter to the Town Attorney and Town Manager informing them that if they do not reply within a certain time frame, the Association will request that the Superior Court issue a Writ of Mandamus, which is an order from a court requiring public officials perform a duty that they are legally obligated to perform. Board members agreed to this suggestion but asked that the Town Council also be copied on the letter – and in addition, as many Board members as possible will attend the Town Council meeting after the letter is sent to help bring Council members up to date on the issue and to try to negotiate a satisfactory settlement without legal action.

**Dog Rules and Kayak Rack Usage:** The new rules are posted on the GPA website. All personal property has been removed from the beach for the winter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Drainage Issue at East End of Avery Shores:** John Petrovits purchased and personally placed sandbags to help guide water away from the driveways and walkways affected by rainwater runoff that had frozen. A GPA member with construction equipment cleared out a blocked culvert to help with the water buildup issue and was paid \$200 from the Emergency Funds portion of the budget. There also is an expectation that the affected homeowners would take remediation steps as well to help prevent water from running down their walkways/driveways, such as adding small curbs or lips at the street as other Avery Shores homeowners have done.

**Memorial plants/trees:** An Association member asked if it was possible for her to purchase and plant a tree at the beach as a memorial to a child who grew up on the lake and recently lost his life. Board members liked the idea, especially because some of the older and failing trees will be taken down. Some options in case many people wanted to do this would be to have one single tree to serve as a memorial or to offer just a limited number of trees as memorials. Since this is not the weather to plant, the Board said this discussion could be considered again in the spring. Sharon Morel will inform the member of what was discussed.

**Next meeting:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 7pm at the Library Media Room at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.