

Minutes for the May 7, 2020 Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

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

John Petrovits called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Steve Belanger, Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley (joined by phone), Sharon Morel, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland (joined at 7:00).

Audience of Members: No audience members were present.

Minutes: Minutes from the March 3, 2020, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved with no amendments.

President's Report: John Petrovits noted the unusual and unsettled times due to COVID-19, the coronavirus, and the need for our lake association to respond to the challenges that have resulted.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young, the GPA tax collector, reported a 97.27% collection rate, up from 92.76% that was reported in March.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing new to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beach & Beautification: Discussed under New Business.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: The most recent fuel oil delivery organized by Harvey Barrett was \$1.20 a gallon, thanks to Harvey's negotiation efforts.

Gerald Park Day: Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Board members agreed that Gerald Park Day will be canceled for this year.

Member Involvement Committee: Discussed under Old Business.

Website: Lisa Catanese will post the Spring 2020 GPA newsletter on the website.

Welcome to GPA: Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Avery Shores turnover update: Like many initiatives, this is on hold. The Town Council now meets via Zoom. John Petrovits will reach out to the Council to follow up on the GPA's request to speak about this topic at an upcoming meeting.

Member involvement: All community engagement events are on hold due to social distancing because of the virus. This included the planned canvassing in April. Committee members suggested, and the full Board agreed, to invite any GPA residents to reach out to a Board member if they need help with small errands or other assistance during this challenging time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Governor's Executive Order: Board members considered how the GPA can respond to the state's order regarding deferment of tax payments. The order stated that tax-collecting authorities must either (1) allow a 2-month deferment at no penalty, (2) lower the interest rates charged for late payments, or (3) do both. Due to the challenges in calculating various interest rates, Board members unanimously voted in favor of the first option. So for 2020, tax bills sent on July 1 will still be due on August 1, but those experiencing a hardship in paying can now pay as late as October 1 with no penalty and no need to formally apply for the deferment.

Moving Forward: The Board also discussed changes at the park and beach due to COVID-19:

- The park and beach will remain open to GPA members to use at their own risk; the 6-foot social distancing rule must be followed.
- The existing toy box and toys will be removed; members may bring their own toys.
- The GPA will hold off on installing the port-a-potty for the time being, due to the concern about the spread of germs.
- Board members will look to further guidance from the town and state regarding public venues such as our beach.
- The beach cleanup planned for Saturday, May 16, at 9:30am (rain date Sunday) will still happen. All GPA members are asked to volunteer to help – it should not take very long. At this cleanup, we will:
 - Rake and spruce up the park
 - Install the speed bumps in the road
 - Prepare the swim ropes but they will not yet be installed

Spring Budget Meeting: The annual budget meeting is still planned for June 24. At this point, it will be held at the GPA park and beach, following the 6-foot social distancing rule. However, another option is to have the meeting via Zoom. Board members planned an informal Zoom session for May 21 to try out the technology and determine if this is a viable option for the budget meeting and for future meetings. Dave Sutherland will host the Zoom session.

Next meeting: The next Board of Directors meeting will held prior to the June 24 budget meeting; date and location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.