

Minutes for the October 22, 2020 Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

Held via Zoom due to COVID-19

The meeting was called to order at 6:22pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Eric Miller, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, Kevin Ryan, and Dave Sutherland. Also present was Laura Young, GPA tax collector.

Audience of Members: Harvey Barrett joined the Zoom call at approximately 7:00.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 9, 2020, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved with no changes.

President's Report: Linda Blakesley reminded Board members to spread the word about the upcoming beach clean-up on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 9am

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young submitted a report indicating the current tax collection rate has increased to 85.29%. Additional payments are expected soon; in consideration of financial issues related to COVID, the due date for payment had been extended to October 31.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland said not much has been spent to date; the current checkbook balance is around \$10,000. He also reported that \$2,000 is coming out of the Capital Improvements budget to pay for the road repairs at the east end of Avery Shores.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: John Petrovits reported that the next step in this process is for him to email the town so that the GPA can get on the agenda of an upcoming Town Council meeting to discuss the issue. Harvey Barrett said he would also help facilitate this.

Beach & Beautification: Jim Cropley expects to finish the beach improvement work in the next few weeks. This includes fixing an erosion issue near one of the benches and creating a walkway from the parking lot.

Environmental: Sharon Powers had been providing information on the health of the lake while she was a GPA Board member; Scott Gallo currently serves on the lake advisory committee and will be asked if he would provide this information going forward.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Once again during this heating season, Harvey Barrett is inviting GPA members interested in purchasing home heating oil at a group rate to contact him. Due to the large bulk order, he has been able to negotiate an excellent per-gallon rate.

Member Involvement Committee: This committee includes Board members Linda Blakesley, Dave Sutherland, and Raymond Perugini, as well as GPA member Kelly Sutherland. Activities being planned for next year include "Skate the Lake" with a campfire and hot chocolate, "Meet the Neighbors" walk-around, movies at the park, a GPA Block Party the weekend of July 17, kayak and canoe sunset and full moon paddles, and "Yoga at the Park." Details will be posted on the GPA website and Facebook page.

Website: Lisa Catanese looked into adding a calendar of events, but the free website-building product we use through our current web hosting company is too limited for this. Kevin Ryan has some website technical experience, and he and Lisa will discuss the possibility of enhancing the website in the future.

Welcome to GPA: No new GPA residents recently.

Bylaws and Park Rules subcommittee: This group is comprised of Eric Miller, Linda Blakesley, Kelly Sutherland, Scott Gallo, George Siritis, Kevin Ryan, and Brian Thibodeau. They had a first meeting and will have a report for the next Board of Directors meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road repairs at the east end of Avery Shores: A company to do the repairs was chosen, and a check will be sent to them this month so they can start on the repairs, which will be done in the fall prior to any freezing or icing. There was a concern about damage to the repairs due heavy machinery being used to build a new house, but the Board said the repairs must proceed because they are so necessary.

Airbnbs in the Association: The Bylaws and Park Rules subcommittee is discussing this issue as part of the overall revisions to GPA rules and processes.

NEW BUSINESS:

GPA Taxing Considerations. Board members discussed how taxation is done within the GPA. Currently the amount of tax owed is figured as a percentage of each property's assessed value. There is a concern that this is disproportionate for lakefront owners. Harvey Barrett has suggested a flat-fee taxation be imposed. However, this may not be possible because the GPA was set up decades ago as a quasi-municipality. Board members Ray Perugini, Pam Cropley, and Eric Miller, along with tax collector Laura Young, will investigate the feasibility of revising the taxation process.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.