

Minutes for the March 11, 2021 Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting

Held via Zoom due to COVID-19

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Eric Miller, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, and Dave Sutherland. Absent were Steve Belanger and Kevin Ryan.

Audience of Members: The Board welcomed two GPA members as well as Alexa Gorlick from the town of Coventry.

Minutes: Minutes from the February 11, 2021, GPA Board of Directors meeting were approved with no changes.

President's Report: Linda Blakesley moved up on the agenda the Old Business item regarding a blighted property within our Association. Alexa Gorlick, the town's zoning enforcement officer and planning technician, was attending at the invitation of Eric Miller. She reported that she spoke with the residents of the property in question and they seem very open to assistance from neighbors for a clean-up. Their only request is to be compensated in some way for the redeemable bottles and cans on the property. Discussed were:

- How to remove the bottles and cans, since it doesn't appear that recycling companies will send a truck for redeemables – they would have to be brought to a redemption center in order to get cash back. This would require many trips and might not be feasible even with neighborhood help due to the quantity.
- Alexa suggested that the GPA contact Coventry Cares, a philanthropic group in town, to ask if they could help. Eric Miller said he would contact the group.

Regarding the Avery Shores road turnover, Linda reported that she will ask the town's Steering Committee if the GPA and our attorney could attend either their April 26 or May 24 meeting, provided the town's attorney could also be present, to continue the discussion.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young submitted a report showing a 95% collection rate, which is excellent in order to fund our budget.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland reported that there was no new spending in the past month. He also said he has been in repeated contact with the company that provides the port-a-potty at our beach, because we were overcharged since they didn't pick it up until a month after he called them last fall to ask that it be removed. The company said they would look into the matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: Discussed under President's Report.

Beach & Beautification: The Board set Saturday, May 15, at 9:30am (rain date May 16) as the date for the spring cleanup at the beach. If the materials for the kayak rack are \$800 or less, they will be purchased and brought to the beach so the rack can be constructed at the same time.

Member Involvement Committee: A number of summer activities have been planned and will be promoted on Facebook, on our website, and in the spring newsletter. In addition, the committee set a date of Thursday, May 6, at 6pm (and Saturday, May 8, at 10am if needed) to do a neighborhood walk-around to meet and greet GPA members and invite them to participate in the spring cleanup and other activities.

Environmental: No report.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Harvey Barrett arranged one more March delivery and again, the price he negotiated was far below standard charges. Appreciation as always to Harvey for his work on this.

Website: Lisa Catanese will send Eric Miller the password information he needs to finalize the Google calendar. Lisa also reported that she completed the U.S. Census request that had been sent to our Association.

Welcome to GPA: Lisa Lowell has several baskets ready to go for new Gerald Park residents.

Bylaws and Park Rules subcommittee: The subcommittee has draft of new park rules and will circulate it to Board members for their review. The new rules will be put on the agenda for the April meeting.

GPA taxes subcommittee: This continues to be on hold for the time being.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building of the new kayak rack: The plan outlined at the February Board meeting is still viable. If the materials cost \$800 or less, they will be ordered. If more expensive, the rack will be put on hold until GPA members can vote on adding the additional funds at the June budget meeting.

Storage shed: No changes to the plan for the shed funding.

Letter from Town regarding available road funds: Continues to be on hold.

Format request to add road turnover to Steering Committee agenda: Discussed under President's Report.

Tree health at the park: The Board discussed getting estimates for the work and presenting them at the June budget meeting.

Drain washout at the beach: Eric Miller followed up with the town and was told that the trap rock that was put down should be sufficient for erosion control. The town said to let them know if there are any issues in the future.

Blighted property within GPA: Discussed under President's Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board member's absence from meetings: Because of the unusual situation involving trouble connecting via Zoom meetings, the Board decided to hold on this, in the hope that we will be able to meet in person in the future and that all Board members will be able to attend. The Board member who was having trouble with online Zoom meetings also will be given the Zoom phone number so he can call in if necessary.

Spring newsletter: Lisa Catanese will put this together in time for the planned walk-around in May.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, April 15, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in the park if the weather cooperates; otherwise, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.