

## **GSLA Annual Meeting**

**June 28, 2014 -- 10:30 a.m.**

**(as approved at the June 27, 2015 Annual Meeting)**

The annual meeting of the Great Sand Lakes Association was held on Saturday, June 28, 2014 at the Harwich Community Center.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Jim Robichaud, GSLA President.

Jim introduced the members of the Board who were present at the meeting:

- Patsy Lightbown, Vice President; Ted Borman, Treasurer; Judy Adams; Marian Piro; Dave Callaghan, website developer for the Association.

### **Voting rules**

Jim explained that, according to the GSLA by-laws, each household has two votes at the annual meeting.

### **Minutes of 2013 annual meeting**

The minutes of the 2013 meeting were approved with one correction, the spelling of the name of the late Herb Tempelmann.

### **Treasurer's report**

Ted Borman presented the Treasurer's report and copies were distributed to those in attendance. Highlights of the report include:

- Current balance in account: \$13,303.25
- Net income for Jan-June, 2014: \$2,944.30
- Major expenses for this period were the costs of beach maintenance, including sand replenishment for Vacation Lane and Association (Clearwater) Beaches
- Major expenses anticipated for coming period: Liability insurance premium

Ted reported that membership as of June 28 was 196.

### **Guest speaker:**

Jim introduced Heinz Proft, Natural Resources Director for the Town of Harwich.

The following is a summary of some major points made by Mr. Proft:

- Homeowners' associations such as the GSLA have an important role in getting the town's attention in matters of preserving natural resources and protecting the environment.
- A number of documents on water quality and other environmental issues are available through the Natural Resources Department.
- An interesting and informative resource book called *Pond Life* (a Golden Guide book) is available for \$4 or \$5 at Reed Books in Harwich Port and elsewhere.

- Problems in the Cape's saltwater bodies are most often due to excess nitrogen. Problems in our kettle ponds usually caused by too much phosphorus, contributing to the growth of algae that use up oxygen. Even though Massachusetts has banned the sale of dishwasher detergents containing phosphorus, some visitors bring detergents with them. Their use is strongly discouraged
- The deep kettle ponds in the Great Sand Lakes area (John Joseph and Buck's) are of "good quality". There is some chance that properties north of these ponds (on the other side of Queen Anne) may someday be sewered to prevent pollution of these ponds and the saltwater bodies to the south of Great Sand Lakes.
- The presence of wildlife "in moderation" is not a problem. However, too many animals can add to pollution of ponds. The importance of NOT feeding geese or other wild animals was emphasized.
- During the summer, volunteers (members of the GSLA) help to monitor the health of John Joseph and Buck's ponds by measuring water temperature, clarity, level of dissolved oxygen. In addition, samples of water are collected and sent to UMass labs where levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll can be measured.

Question addressed to Heinz Proft

- Q: Can we get your support in reducing runoff from streets and roads?
- A: Town should be attentive to this. Email Proft and he will look at runoff from public roads.
- Q: Further explanation about sewerage north of us?
- A: Town has looked at water flow and will focus on higher density areas that could be most effectively sewerage.
- Q: What besides rainfall affects water level?
- A: Snowmelt, water usage.

### **New members**

Jim read the names of new homeowners in the Great Sand Lakes area.

2014	Alexina Freiner	51 Idle Way
2014	John and Maggie Kenyon	3 Friendly Road
2014	Kathleen A. Martin & Melanie K. Martin	5 Paradise Path
2014	Kimberly Cottrell & Gregory Ward	14 Happy Way
2014	Lesley Johnson	9 Bobolink Lane
2014	Sara Grizzle & Arthur Donowski	57 Idle Way
2014	Sharon Strout & Paul Rouk	1202 Orleans Road
2014	Stephen Halmkin	328 Depot Road

Question from the floor: Could the membership roster include information about when members moved in to the GSL area?

Dave suggested eventually putting such information on the GSLA website, accessible only to GSLA members.

Question from the floor: Can the website include information about properties available for rental in the GSL area?

Question from the floor: Could such information be linked to VRBO or other property rental services?

Dave agreed that such information could be made available. The Board will consider how this could be implemented, perhaps through discussion or bulletin board functions.

### **Deceased members**

Jim read the names of GSLA members who have died in the past year. A moment of silence honored them.

Steven Harris

Dick Beaton

Mary Jane Hampton

Bobby Loftus

Matt Hark

### **Old business**

Beach Committee

Marian Piro reported that

- Beach parking stickers for 2014 have been prepared and mailed
- Life preservers have been installed on main beaches
- New sand has been placed on Association (Clearwater) and Vacation Lane beaches
- Committee members will continue to monitor the parking situation

From the floor, there was an expression of thanks for the work of the Beach Committee.

Beach maintenance and sand renourishment

- Jim reported that 100 yards of sand had been spread at Association (Clearwater) and Vacation Lane beaches.
- Jim reported that sand renourishment will be done at Pleasant Park beach in the fall. Sand will be spread under the pine trees, where roots have been exposed.
- Jim mentioned the importance of volunteers who work to maintain the beaches, thus keeping costs lower than they would be if we had to rely on hired landscapers for all tasks.

Boat Policy Report

- Dave emphasized the fact that a policy to tag boats and to remove them from the beaches in winter had always been in effect but had not always been enforced.
- The new effort to enforce the policy was driven by evidence that some boats on the beaches were brought there by non-residents, by the presence of boats that appeared to be abandoned, having been unused for more than a year, and by a desire to identify owners of boats that floated across the pond during the winter months.

- Removing unused boats improves access to boats that are being used, makes beach clean-up easier, reduces the number of “critters” who take up lodging in abandoned boats.
- Going forward, untagged boats on the beaches after Labor Day will be considered abandoned.
- After a period of time, boats that are determined to be truly abandoned will be picked up by the harbor master who, after a further period, can sell them at auction. If boats are to be auctioned, GSLA will be notified and members will be able to bid on them.
- Question from the floor: Can we get replacement stickers if we lose one?
- Answer: Contact Dave Callaghan.
- Question from the floor: Are the beaches for swimming or for boat storage?
- Answer: Both, but not for year round boat storage. The GSLA board is seeking a balance, allowing summer storage of boats without interfering with swimming areas. One solution, going forward, may be to provide racks for kayaks.
- Question from the floor: Do we need a new sticker each year?
- Answer: No, the sticker is permanent. However, it cannot be transferred to a new owner.
- Suggestion from the floor: Perhaps we should invite members to vote on the establishment of a limit to the number of boats a resident can have on the beach at any given time.

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Jim thanked Dave Callaghan for his work on creating and maintaining the GSLA web site.

Patsy encouraged members to use the “volunteer” button to get involved in activities such as beach clean-up and water quality testing.

### **New business**

The proposed slate of members of the Board of Directors was presented. Three current members have completed their terms, leaving three positions to be filled. Judy Adams, Sean Burke, and Ellen O’Connell were elected by acclamation.

By acclamation, Ted Borman was elected to continue serving as Treasurer; Judy Adams was elected Clerk.

Jim called for any further new business. Joe Larose rose to inform the meeting of his intent to petition the Selectmen to install a streetlight at the corner of Vacation Lane and Lakeside Terrace. He provided documents regarding the petition for the information of those in attendance.

### **The Summer Picnic**

The picnic will be held at Association (Clearwater) beach on August 2, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Grilled food will be available from 1:00 p.m. Those who attend are invited to bring side dishes to share. The rain date for the picnic is Sunday, August 3.

**Adjournment**

Jim adjourned the meeting at noon.

Patsy M. Lightbown  
Acting Clerk