

## **Great Sand Lakes Association Annual Meeting**

### **June 29 2019 – 10:30 a.m.**

The Annual Meeting of the Great Sand Lakes Association was held on Saturday, June 29, 2019 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: Dave Callaghan, Treasurer; Judy Adams, Clerk; Margaret Fallon, George Myers, and Marian Piro.

#### **Voting rules**

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

#### **Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting**

The Minutes of the June 2018 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Callaghan presented the Treasurer's report and copies were made available to those in attendance. He noted that our current cash balance is \$17,778 a comfortable balance in case we have a big expenditure such as sand replenishment.

#### **Membership Report**

Jim noted that our current membership is 214 (at last year's annual meeting it was 212). He asked those in attendance to encourage their neighbors who are not members to join as the dues provide the income needed to enable funding for capital improvements. He noted that there are a total of 274 households in the GSLA area and 78% are members.

Jim pointed out that everyone benefits from what we do including fence repairs and cleaning of the swales.

Jim thanked Dave for spearheading the cleaning of the beaches and beach maintenance which helps to keep the landscaping costs down. He also thanked Bob Clinton for his great work on the GSLA website.

**Guest Speaker: Andrew Gottlieb** – Executive Director, Association to Preserve Cape Cod.(APCC) spoke on "The State of the Waters: Cape Cod". Andrew emphasized that things are "less good" than what the towns say in regards to the water situation. Every pond is unique – different septic systems, phosphates, nitrates, etc. He emphasized the

need for people to go to their Board of Selectmen to discuss water quality issues and even if five people come forward to help that makes a big difference. People need to get involved and make their voices heard by the Selectmen.

New this week is the density of blue/green algae. Chatham, Brewster and Barnstable have working groups like ours which can do a sample very quickly to determine the density of blue/green algae. He stated that the APCC is testing 22 ponds this year and 5 ponds have bacteria significant enough for restricted access. Santuit pond is the worst. He doesn't know if this summer will be worse than last - lots of nutrients from fertilizers have been flushed into the ponds and it was a very wet spring. Typically early fall is when the algae is the worst. He emphasized the need for people to speak up to town officials about our water quality problems. There are resources available. He urged people to look at the APCC website for the pond video. There is a map which shows all the sites they monitor. He is open to work with more pond associations but does not have the staff to do it. They are looking to get funding to do all ponds across the Cape.

He noted that most people fertilize their lawns too much and he stressed that people should not fertilize their lawns when it is going to rain in the following 48 hours and to make small changes to their landscaping habits such as using organic products, replacing plantings over time to native species, convert some of your lawn to native species garden, grind leaves, etc.

He mentioned that Capabilities Farm, 42 Main St.(Rte 6a) in Dennis has a large supply of native species and he encouraged people to go see them. By converting to all native species that don't need water, fertilizer, etc. and replacing plantings over time on your property to native species can get rid of some of your lawn and convert to native species gardens. Also grind leaves with lawnmower and toss into your garden. These are a few practical ways to have impact on water quality. The importance of cleaning up pet waste was also discussed.

Jim noted that we, as an Association, can only make recommendations to try and fix the problem and anything we can do is helpful. A link will be added to our website for the APCC bacteria monitoring page.

**Introduction of New GSLA members:** Jim noted the names of new homeowners who have joined the GSLA since the last annual meeting. Out of nine new owners, eight have joined the GSLA.

Owners	Address	MailingAddress
Gerald Turner & Colina Cummings	869 Queen Anne Road	Harwich MA
Patricia Foster	8 Bluebird Lane	South Boston MA
Richard Forgeron & Susan O'Bara	83 Clearwater Drive	Harwich MA
Chris & Bonnie Dufault	753 Queen Anne Road	Holden MA

Christopher DeFronzo	831 Queen Anne Road	Burlington MA
Kristy Low	10 Hummingbird Lane	South Boston MA
Michele Stenson & Bill Greehey	1 Friendly Road	Hanover MA
Edward & Cheryl Acton	3 Bluebird Lane	Chatham MA
Cathy & Joe Frazier	59 Clearwater Drive	Bridgewater MA

**Deceased Members:** Jim read the names of the GSLA members who died in the past year. A moment of silence honored them:

A. H. Booker (past President of the GSLA who lived to age 108!)  
 Glenn Bryant, Jr.  
 Joyce Roche

### **Old Business:**

Dave spoke about the boat policy and noted the importance of registering your boats so if they float away the owner can be identified. Any unclaimed boats will go to the Harbormaster in the fall. As there is not much room on Association Beach due to the high water it is important to maintain a path for launching boats that are stored away from the shoreline. A comment was made that some boats have been on the town beach at Bucks Pond Road for years. A reference was made to the [GSLA-Harwich.org](http://GSLA-Harwich.org) website for further beach/boating information.

### **New Business:**

Jim reviewed the status of some committees and work groups of the Board such as Water Quality testing; Membership; Beach and Grounds maintenance etc. If anyone has an interest in being involved please contact Jim.

A comment was made by a member regarding the very attractive plantings at the Flagpole entrance to GSLA on Rte 39. No one seems to know who the person is that is doing it but everyone is thankful.

Anne Frechette noted the Styrofoam pollution in the ponds due to poorly maintained docks that spew Styrofoam into the pond. Dave noted that there are no laws regarding float construction and given the pond is owned by the state, not the Association, there is nothing we can do to force owners to eliminate the Styrofoam. He did point out that all docks which are attached to land need to be registered with the state and will require Conservation Commission approval. Floats require a fresh water mooring permit from the town Harbormaster. He urged all owners to register their boats/floats.

**Queen Anne Road:** With the current speed it is hard to pull out onto Queen Anne Rd from the "Bird" roads and discussions have been held with the Chief of Police. Further

studies need to be done but can't be concluded until the current road construction is finished (up to a year). New speed solar control signs will be up in July. Deputy Chief Constandine has been very accommodating.

**Election of Board of Directors:**

The proposed slate for 3-year terms expiring 2022 was presented: Patsy Lightbown, George Myers, Jim Robichaud, were elected by acclamation.

**Election of Treasurer and Clerk:**

Dave Callaghan was elected to continue serving as Treasurer; Judy Adams was elected to continue serving as Clerk by acclamation.

**Announcements:**

The annual GSLA picnic will be held at Association Beach on Saturday, August 3. It was suggested that a canned food drive be done the same day.

It was also suggested that instead of the usual gifts given at the holiday luncheon, a donation be made to the Harwich Food Pantry instead.

Jim noted that the Holiday luncheon will take place on Saturday, December 7.

**Adjournment:**

Jim adjourned the meeting at 12:20.

Judy C. Adams  
Clerk