

DRAFT 2

Great Sand Lakes Association Annual Meeting June 26 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

Pending approval at the 2022 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Great Sand Lakes Association was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, June 26, 2021.

Dave Callaghan (GSLA President) called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He thanked everyone for joining the Zoom meeting. Approximately 50 households were represented.

Dave introduced and thanked the members of the Board who were present at the meeting: Chris Briggs, Vice President; Patsy Lightbown, Clerk; Bruce Paige, Treasurer; Judy Adams; Margaret Fallon; George Myers; Marian Piro; and Jim Robichaud, Past President.

Voting rules

Dave explained that, according to the GSLA by-laws, only those who have paid their dues for the current year are allowed to vote. Each household has two votes at the Annual meeting

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

The Minutes of the June 2020 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce presented the Treasurer's report.

As of June 14, 2021 our cash balance was approximately \$19,000. This reflects the dues of over 200 memberships and just over \$4000 in additional contributions from members. Because both the annual picnic and the December holiday party could not be held in 2020, general expenses were lower in 2020 than in typical years. However, the cost of beach maintenance reflects the addition of sand on three beaches. The Treasurer's Report was received and accepted.

Dave explained a donation that was made in December 2020 to the Family Pantry. In some previous years funds had been spent on providing favors for guests at the annual holiday party. Some members had suggested that a better use of funds might be a charitable donation and this was done in 2019. In 2020, no holiday party was held due to the pandemic. In light of this and in light of the increased number of local residents needing support from the Family Pantry, the

Board made a donation of \$500 to the Family Pantry. As this had not been brought before the annual meeting or the full membership, Dave acknowledged that some might question the appropriateness of this use of Association funds. He asked for a show of hands to indicate whether members thought this was an acceptable use of funds. The vast majority of those responding supported the donation.

Membership Report

Our current membership is 214 (at last year's annual meeting it was 196). The target for this year is 225. Approximately 273 households are eligible for membership.

Introduction of New GSLA members: Dave noted the names of six homeowners who are new members of the GSLA (since the last annual meeting).

Owners	GSL address
Norman & Natalie Stafford	775 Queen Anne Road
Kevin Deneen	12 Bluebird Lane
Jessica Handley & John Jaworski	13 Bluebird Lane
Nancy Hook & Bob England	15 Happy Way
The Dowgiallo Family	5 Ripple Way
Lorraine Lurvey	46 Vacation Lane

Deceased Members: Dave acknowledged the death of Margaret Murray, and a moment of silence honored her:

Old Business:

Dave reported that the formation of a committee structure to share the workload of the Association has begun to yield results. Many tasks have been carried out by the various committees. He also acknowledged that sharing the workload had been more difficult in the past year because of Covid restrictions that prevented committees from gathering.

Dave reported that the tree that was planted on the Association beach on Clearwater (replacing some that were felled by the tornado in 2019) was doing well. He anticipates that the remaining pine tree in the middle of the beach will go down in a storm before long. The special donations that members made for the replacement tree totalled \$3910. The new tree cost \$2799. The balance of these funds are being held and will be used toward another tree replacement, in accordance with the wishes of the donors. Further funds from general GSLA resources will be needed to purchase a new tree of a reasonable size.

New Business:Beach maintenance and 2021 projects:

Dave thanked Jim for the work he did singlehandedly on the beach at Vacation Lane, breaking up the hard pan soil and planting grass to stop the erosion under the pine trees. Jim reported that the project was successful in stopping the erosion.

Jim reported on the renourishment of beach sand on Vacation Lane, Pleasant Park Circle, and Clearwater Drive. A total of 140 yards of sand was distributed across the beaches. He emphasized the importance—and the difficulty—of finding beach quality sand (rather than "bank sand" or "mason's sand"). The beach maintenance committee will continue to monitor the beaches to take advantage of the fact that we have an existing permit and will work to extend our sand permit rather than having to apply for a new one.

Dave reported that he is working with a group of GSLA members to review the signage on the GSLA properties. They have already replaced the hand-painted parking space signs on Clearwater Drive. The goal is to post a minimum of signs, many of which are required for insurance purposes, reducing the redundancy of signs that provide the same information.

On some of the boat launch areas at the end of the "bird" streets off Queen Anne Road, some repairs of steps are under way. These areas are the property of the GSLA, and homeowners are reminded that they are not allowed to alter these areas unless the GSLA Board has received permission from the Conservation Department.

Water quality:

The Town of Harwich oversees weekly bacterial testing of water at Vacation Lane, Paradise Path/Lakeside Terrace, and Clearwater Drive beaches, as well as at the Town beach at the foot of Bucks Pond Road (this includes Pleasant Park Circle). We are required to post the safety results of these tests, and new signs will replace the faded ones that had become unreadable.

In addition, four times each summer, volunteers will test the water in Bucks and John Joseph ponds, using equipment provided by the Town. Those tests measure depth, temperature, clarity, and oxygen saturation, and collect water samples that are sent for testing in state labs.

Dave expressed concern about this year's low water levels and warm temperatures that increase the risk of algae in the ponds. There has been some evidence of blue-green algae, but it has not been problematic so far. The Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod has done some testing in our ponds and others, with the goal of monitoring the presence of cyanobacteria.

Election of Board of Directors:

The proposed slate for 3-year terms expiring in 2024 was presented. Dave explained that Marian Piro had asked to have her name removed from the slate. Dave thanked her for her contributions to the Association and to the Board over many years.

Dave Callaghan, Margaret Fallon, and Doug MacGilpin were elected by acclamation.

Election of Treasurer and Clerk:

Bruce Paige was elected to serve as Treasurer and Patsy Lightbown as Clerk by acclamation. Dave reminded the members that, according to the by-laws, the President and Vice President are chosen by the Board at the first Board meeting following the Association's annual meeting.

Questions from the Membership:

John Kenyon raised concern about the risks of young people on skim boards on the beach. Members were reminded that the posted beach rules prohibit users of the beach from interfering with the enjoyment of other users. Meeting attendees were reminded that they have the right to ask others to respect the rules of safety and mutual respect.

Patricia Stahlschmidt asked about rules regarding dogs on "private" areas around the ponds. Sheilah Tempelman also raised questions about dogs on private property away from the water. Dave confirmed the GSLA rules banning dogs from the beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day and said that the GSLA has no jurisdiction over dogs on Town of Harwich or private property. George Myers emphasized the risks of damaging pollutants entering the ponds if dogs are allowed to urinate and defecate in or near them.

Patricia Stahlschmidt asked what remedy would be possible if cyanobacteria were found in the ponds. Dave mentioned that alum treatments had been used successfully in other ponds. George Myers urged members to put pressure on officials in charge of the local and regional wastewater plans to hasten the sewerage of the areas around Queen Anne Road because the soil that has protected the ponds from an excess of phosphorus over the years is becoming overburdened and without sewerage, these phosphates will eventually damage the ecosystems of the Great Sand Lakes ponds.

Dave mentioned that Polly Goddard had informed him of an outbreak of rabies on the Cape. She has asked homeowners to allow for raccoons to be trapped on their property so that they could be inoculated against rabies. This project was scheduled for June 14 to July 1.

Brian Fry asked about the reserved funds for the future planting of trees on the beach at Clearwater. Dave explained that we expect to see the remaining pine tree fall in the near future and that will allow us to make better choices about the placement of additional trees. In addition, we need to see how the first tree fares before planting another. Water levels are a crucial factor in the choice of a tree and the timing of planting. Chris reiterated that funds which were donated specifically for replacing the trees that went down in the 2019 tornado are being reserved for future trees. The purchase of the tree that was planted in 2020 did not use up all of the contributions that members made for tree replacement, and future tree purchases will draw on those funds as well as on general maintenance funds from the Association.

Pam Sawin commented on the references to "Clearwater Beach" rather than "Association Beach" and asked if the name had been changed. Dave replied that other GSLA beaches are referred to by their location (Pleasant Park Circle, Vacation Lane, Paradise Path) and that the reference to Clearwater was meant to be consistent with that usage.

Adjournment:

Dave adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy M. Lightbown, Clerk