

# **Green Hill Civic Association**

## **Annual Meeting**

### **August 29, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President Mal O'Connor at 11 a.m.

Officers present were Mal O'Connor, VP Bill Conlin, Treasurer Bill Anastasiades, and Secretary Maureen Koehl.

The meeting was held via Zoom because of the Covid 19 pandemic regulations preventing in person gatherings. Attendance exceeded 36 member families.

**Minutes** of the July 11 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill A. reported a record number of members rejoining and new members totaling 201. Income this year from membership dues as of the meeting date was \$15K; Expenses so far this year were just under \$17K, leaving us with an ending budget as of the meeting of \$16,708. The largest expense, \$6,000, was for the development of the recreation area located near the tennis courts. Other outlays included to Dylan Gamache for improvements to Recreation Area and to the benches at the beach. Bill reported no unexpected expenses and said that the organization was "in a pretty good spot." For details see Treasurer's Report.

**Membership Report:** From Pat and Dan Tanona: As of August, 2020, two-thirds of 304 households in the Green Hill Community are GHCA members. There were ten home sales in 2019; so far in 2020 there have been 12 changes in ownership. Carolyn Craig and Ann Manion have visited 13 new neighbors so far and have three to go. Carolyn said that all people visited were enthusiastic about being part of Green Hill. The attitude seems to be, "In this pandemic, you can be anywhere, so why not here?" said Carolyn.

**Beach Committee Report:** It's a "Low Tide Beach!" but all remain hopeful that the miracle of sand will occur before next spring. Two benches have been installed at a slightly raised height for better comfort for the sitters. The Funks who owned the property directly behind the GHCA beach have sold their house. Scott Graf suggested placing a trash can at the entrance to the beach and one at the boat launch area. Discussion needed regarding who should oversee the use to avoid unwanted deposit of household trash. Is a Trash Committee needed?

**Kayak Report:** Several of the racks assigned to families were not used this season, but the pandemic may have been the reason. The communal kayaks have been very popular this summer. Bill Conlin would like feedback on the use of communal kayaks. Bill plans to send out an email soliciting comments/ideas about the program. Some questions include: Should we add to the communal kayak supply for next summer? How to manage use of the communal kayaks during the day? Some users of the communal kayaks taking them to the beach across the pond and leaving them out of use for others for several hours. Bill wondered how this could be monitored so that more could have access to the kayaks. Perhaps impose a two/three-hour time limit?

Donations of new kayaks are always welcomed, especially the “sit-on-top” and “tandem” kinds. Russ Campbell offered a kayak to the cause.

**Tennis Report:** Kathy Conlin said there is a new Tennis Committee. Dick Kalunian retired as president but will stay on as an engineering consultant. Mary Heyman stepped down from the board of the committee as well. Kathy thanked them for their many years of service. The new slate of officers includes Chris Fontaine, Stephanie Marchand, Bill Conlin, Kathy Conlin and Gail DiNeno. There are 37 paid members. Ten are either Pickle Ball or Associate members. There was no tennis party this season, due to Covid 19.

Pickle Ball is growing steadily as is the skill level of the players she noted. Peter Brash thanked the users for being careful about the noise level in the area.

Adding a practice backboard (expensive) or a less expensive ball machine was discussed, cost about \$1,000. Noise control and storage would be a problem; and a ball machine was recommended as a better way to help individuals practice on their own. The Tennis Committee will follow up on that option.

**Recreation Area:** The use of the horseshoe and bocce courts is increasing as more families become aware of the facility. The bocce tournaments held over the summer months have increased this awareness. Bocce Master, Jerry Bellizzi and his wife, Laura, were pleased that 14 teams signed up for the First Annual Green Hill Association Bocce tournament, and a grand time was had by all. Champions were Lisa and Oscar Ernst who took home the Italian wine and tomatoes...what not to like about that prize?

Masks and distancing were the order of the day. Bonnie O'Connor offered thanks to Jerry and Laura for setting up the tournament and for keeping watch over the bocce lovers of the community. Cynthia Lombardo who lives across the street from the newly opened area said it is beautiful, but neighborhood privacy is sometimes compromised. She suggested more bushes be planted as a screen along Rosebriar Ave. It was suggested that the path from Rosebriar to the area be better identified so that people would use the path rather than tramping across the open space. Mal said he will follow up and said he thought that a sign made that points to the path would help.

**Friends of Green Hill Pond:** Our Community Liaison, Dan Tanona, said that Friends of Green Hill Pond was doing a terrific amount of work toward the improvement of conditions of the pond which have been deteriorating for almost 30 years. There are several causes for this: 1) poor tidal flushing because of no direct access to the ocean; 2) high bacterial count and high nitrogen count, 80% of which comes from wildlife on the pond and in the watershed area including Trustom Pond, with septic disposal adding to the problem. There is a proposed project partnering with URI for a grant to remove silt at the bridge at the west end of the pond and feed the removal to the dunes to replace Hurricane Sandy's damage. Grants are in the works for the bacteria abatement partnering with the town.

**Salt Pond Coalition:** A report from Ann Manion said that the Coalition is monitoring five sites on Green Hill Pond with the samples collected to be sent to URI for analysis. She asked for monetary support for the program. Mike Counihan has posted the report on the GHCA website.

Donna McNulty said that the town has low interest rate loans for the installation of new septic systems to encourage improving the pollution problems.

**Social Engagement Committee:** This new committee, chaired by Mary Ann Emanuel, includes Linda and Tim O'Connor, Dick and Cathy Cantwell, Scot Graf and Peter Jenny - and welcomes more members, after all, it is a *social* committee. Plans are in the works for more bocce and horseshoe tournaments, outdoor movie nights, square dancing, porch fests, picnics on the beach and more. The committee welcomes new ideas.

**By-law Changes: #1:** To authorize the Board of Directors to spend up to \$2,500 without prior approval. **Motion approved.**

**#2:** To authorize the President to spend up to \$1,500 without prior approval. **Motion approved.**

**Nomination Chair:** Mal appointed Kathy Conlin head of the Nomination Committee. He asked her to select members to join her on the committee – and to recommend new Board members, Officers and Committee leaders at the next meeting in June, 2021. **Motion approved.**

**New Business:** Bocce tournament is set for Saturday, September 26.

A letter from Tom and Kathy Funk was received saying “Goodbye to everyone who made this place magical and best wishes for sand between your toes!” The town Right of Way to the beach, and the Easement that provides for our use of the beach in perpetuity remain in place.

**Opening Dinner in June, 2021:** Will we have an event at Spain as in the past? Aside from the continuation of the Pandemic, has the GHCA outgrown the venue? Problems include accessibility, noise level and capacity. Other possibilities include South County Land Trust’s new facility, St. James’s new activity center. Carolyn said she would check the capacity of the St. James site.

**End of Year Picnic. In 2021:** Planned for the last weekend prior to Labor Day 2021. In person...we hope!

Meeting adjourned: 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Koehl