

GIANTS NECK BEACH ASSOCIATION

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING JULY 9 2025 6:30 pm

HELEN LENA CLUBHOUSE

31 WEST PATTAGANSETT RD NIAHTIC CT

Minutes

1- Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

2- President's Report

Paul Formica requested a moment of silence for members of the community who had recently passed away.

Paul welcomed new members of the BOG and committees. Lisa Doggart has stepped down but will now chair the Pond and Wildlife Committee.

Paul received an email from a community member asking how to get a name engraved on a bench as a memorial. Mary Ann answered that the information is on the website under beautification.

Paul presented tokens of thanks to Louise Wilcox, who recently stepped down as Treasurer. He also presented a token of thanks to Jim Beaulieu for all his years as chair of the Pond Committee.

Paul told the group that he cannot attend the membership meeting on July 19.

3- Treasurer's Report

Lorie Carlson presented the Treasurer's report. The current bank balance is approximately \$304,000, with property tax revenues beginning to arrive. Recent revenues totaled approximately \$6,000 from cottage rent, interest income, and other sources. Recent expenses totaled approximately \$16,400 in operating expenses; no capital expenses for this period. Anticipated upcoming revenues are approximately \$198,000 in property taxes and other income. Plan to transfer \$25,000 to the reserve fund, projecting approximately \$200,000 remaining in operating funds.

Lorie proposed simplifying the invoice submission process. She suggested that chairs should email invoices directly to the treasurer's email with receipts and indicate the line item. The Board agreed to try it for a month.

Chip Brienza made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Gerry Van Noordennen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### 4- Approval of Minutes BOG Meetings 6/4/25 and 6/21/25

Julie Cameron made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 4 meeting. Gerry seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ernie Annibale made a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of the BOG on 6/21/25. Chip Brienza seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### 5- Committee Reports

##### - Court Committee

Lou Piscatelli reported on the new Court Committees' first meeting. The committee discussed expanding its role beyond hours and enforcement to include maintenance, paddle technology, health and safety considerations, community events, scheduling, and improved communication. Plans were made to improve signage and explore the use of flyers. There was a discussion of moving the defibrillator for better access and providing training after July 15.

The committee is also exploring new paddle covers and the possibility of automatic locks, as well as enhancing access and control over scheduling tools such as Skedda and the Ring app.

The committee discussed asking the Board to consider extending court hours by one hour (7–8 PM) for tennis only, due to the historical quiet nature of tennis, and to consider extending hours during heat advisory days to allow later, safer play.

Lou noted these are sensitive topics and recommended a public discussion at a future noticed meeting, potentially at the July 19 Association meeting.

Julie Cameron agreed with closing the court when there are heat advisories.

MaryAnn stated she is concerned the court process will go backward. Ernie stated that the board has to take the leadership and make decisions. Chip said that any recommendations for change have to be explicitly stated. He said that if there is no consensus, the GNBA could give up the court.

- Pond and Wildlife Committee

Gerry Van Noordennen reported on behalf of the Ponds and Wildlife Committee. The Group raked lily pads to improve fishing access, collaborated with the State of Connecticut to band geese, and installed fencing around Brockett Road to discourage geese. The committee also plans to put up turtle crossing signs to reduce turtle deaths on the road. The committee hired a contractor to spray invasive plants in the pond, including water lilies, knotweed, and phragmites, with the aim of improving the pond's ecosystem and attracting more birds.

Ernie acknowledged the work of the committee. Lou asked if the water lilies are being killed by the roots. Jim Beaulieu said the spray kills the plant to the root.

- Beach Comm

Mike Heenehan reported on the Beach Committee's activities. The beach was busy on July 4th, with 175 people counted on the sand. The committee has new members, including Miles Van Noordennen, an environmental specialist who conducts water sampling. Jennifer Blair, Troy Beary have also joined. The main beach has been clean, but the west beach has been problematic due to recent weather events. A new contractor has been hired to clean the beaches, and they are working on understanding the unique cleaning needs of the area. West Beach was hit particularly hard by the recent nor'easter. Miles is working on requesting additional water quality sampling locations from the health district.

Mike thanked the volunteers who put the swim lines out.

## 6- Public Comments

Kerry Orshal said there is a sex offender in the GNB community. She believes the board has the authority to make rules not allowing sex offenders to live here. Kerry believes sex offenders cannot be within 500 feet of a playground. She wants to make sure no more sex offenders come into the community. A sex offender is returning to the community in November. Kerry stated that this is a very serious issue as we need to protect children in the community.

Kerry also said she has communicated with other beach associations, and their hours are 8 am to dusk, or 8 am to 8 pm. None of the other associations has the same issues that GNBA has. She said the children on the playground make just as much noise as the players on the court.

Mike Heenehan said the beach committee has spent 1.5 years talking about enforcement at the beaches. The GNBA needs to make sure there is no smoking at the beach, no glass on the beach, no launching of kayaks or boats in the swimming area. Mike would like to continue the discussion of beach passes. He said there needs to be consequences about not following the rules.

Jim Beaulieu complained about the fireworks on the beach on July 4th. Deirdre Vorhees was horrified by the fireworks. It is a significant liability and a public safety issue.

Vickie Piscatelli mentioned the lasers that deter geese. Gerry responded that they work very well.

Vickie said that she and Julie Cameron are the recreation committee and it is too much work. They can't remain a committee of 2.

Mario Harris said he would like more communication about things such as BINGO. Mike Heenehan responded that texting is reserved for emergencies. Mario complained about mistakes with eblasts, and requests from the community to post items.

## 7- Board Comments

The board discussed updating the website documents to reflect new zoning regulations and contractor quiet hours. They plan to propose a text amendment to correct discrepancies in the posted regulations.

The board discussed the possibility of conducting a new community survey in early 2026 to reassess membership priorities.

Gerry expressed the idea that all community members volunteer for a certain number of hours each year. Gerry also mentioned that he thinks the basketball hoop may not be in the right place.

Lorie Carlson asked whether the GNBA could post their events at the entrance to GNB.

Kerry Orshal mentioned that the Heights would love to do events together. Chip responded that the BOG has been collaborating with the Heights.

8- Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00.

Next Meeting: July Full Membership meeting 7/19/25 9:00 am