

GIANTS NECK BEACH ASSOCIATION

July Meeting of the Association Members

Saturday, July 19, 2025 – 9:00 AM

Helen Lena Clubhouse – 31 West Pattagansett Rd, Niantic, CT

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Lou Piscatelli at 9:02 AM.

A moment of silence was held to honor community members who have passed away since the last annual meeting.

Vice President's Report

Lou emphasized the need for more volunteers to support the various aspects of community life. He also recognized Page Heslin for her many years of service as BOG President and for her continued dedication to the neighborhood.

Treasurer's Report

Lorie Carlson shared a financial update. The money market account holds a balance of \$208,000, with total funds amounting to \$371,120. Property tax collections are in progress—\$155,911 is due this year, and just over half had been collected as of July 19.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 21, 2025 membership meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Ernie Annibale and a second by Athena Loukellis.

Committee Reports

Beach

Mike Heenehan shared highlights from the recent beach committee meeting. The committee will work on strategies to better reinforce beach rules and plans to make recommendations to the membership and BOG.

Mike also mentioned that he patrols the beach at each full moon to monitor horseshoe crabs and has seen their numbers increasing. He is keeping an eye on sensitive areas to ensure wildlife is not disturbed.

Recreation

Julie Cameron reported on past and upcoming events. She asked for additional volunteers, noting that currently only she and one other volunteer are managing all activities.

Clubhouse

Ernie Annibale noted that the clubhouse air conditioning is not functioning but will be repaired soon. He also shared that the new storage shed is in its final design phase.

Court Committee

Lou Piscatelli gave a detailed update on the recent Court Committee meeting. He introduced a proposed mission statement: "To achieve the greatest use of the court consistent with maintaining neighborhood and community harmony."

The committee discussed ideas for expanding use of the court and surrounding area, including shuffleboard, bocce, volleyball, and community tournaments. There is interest in bringing back tennis instruction for children, given the increasing number of young neighbors.

The committee also aims to improve community engagement, particularly by coordinating with neighbors for events and instruction.

On the topic of health and safety, the committee discussed relocating the defibrillator closer to the court. A medical professional will advise on placement and offer training on its use.

New products, like noise-dampening paddle pads, are being tested to enhance the court experience.

Maintenance remains a focus, including upkeep of both the court and equipment, and managing the seasonal opening and closing.

The committee plans to improve court scheduling (especially via Skedda) and update signage, along with increased Facebook communication.

Rules and regulations are under review. One proposal is to extend tennis hours from 7 PM to 8 PM to better reflect historical use while remaining considerate of noise. Heat-related adjustments may also be considered.

Lou encouraged members to attend the next Court Committee meeting on July 23 to share their ideas. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Governors.

Dock Committee

John Wohler gave an update on the dock's condition and planning for its replacement. The dock was built 35 years ago and is nearing the end of its 45-year life expectancy. A winter inspection revealed structural deficiencies and failing pilings.

A meeting was scheduled immediately following the general meeting to gather input from slip holders, waitlisted members, and other neighbors. The committee plans to replace the dock within the next two to three years.

Although earlier discussions focused on expanding dock space by connecting to five nearby orphan pilings, the current focus has shifted to full replacement due to structural concerns.

The committee is evaluating funding options. Current insurance does not cover the dock structure, and several insurers have declined to quote coverage. This raises concerns about future protection and affordability.

A tide gauge was recently installed as part of a state project at Rocky Neck. This data, combined with rising sea levels and flooding concerns, will inform the new dock design. The replacement will include raising the dock elevation.

As of the meeting, there are 26 people on the dock waitlist, down from 31 the year before.

A quote of \$4,000 was received for recapping the seawall by the dock. That project may be added to next year's budget.

What's on Your Minds?

Mike Heenehan shared seasonal reminders related to beach safety and rule enforcement.

Neighbors are asked to help remind others that glass bottles and smoking are not allowed on the beach.

Kayaks, canoes, and other vessels cannot be launched from within the swim areas. Instead, they must be brought to the edge of the water and dragged along the shore either to the boating area or to the left of South Reef. This rule is consistent with state guidelines and is in place to protect swimmers.

There was a recent concern involving improper diaper disposal on the beach, which raises hygiene and water quality issues. Neighbors are asked to be mindful of proper restroom and trash use.

Lastly, neighbors are reminded not to store personal belongings in privately owned areas of the beach. While the Beebe family has graciously allowed access for eelgrass cleanup, their property must be respected.

Additional beach-related rules will be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.

Upcoming Meetings

Board of Governors: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Membership Meeting: Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Annah Perch
Recording Secretary

Chip was not there; Ernie Annibale reported on the clubhouse.

John Wohler (not Waller)

Lori Carlson... not Lore

Beebe's property (not Babes)