

Association of Great Neck

2020 End of Season Newsletter

As the weather turns cold and the warmth of the upcoming holidays nears, the AGN would like to take this opportunity to take a look back at the Summer of 2020.

At the Annual Meeting in May, you elected the 2020-2021 Board of Directors. Comprised of 11 volunteers with diverse background and experience, this group is enthusiastic and single-minded in its mission to fairly and equitably represent every one of the association's 396 members – a new record! – and fulfilling the association's mission to maintain and preserve Clark Beach and its environs for the common and collective good of Great Neck.

Despite the social distancing caused by the coronavirus pandemic, many of the annual activities continued throughout the summer. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with installing and removing of the pram/kayak racks, the monthly Clark Beach cleanups that drew record numbers, the annual pepperweed pulling, and keeping the Triangle Garden looking better than ever.

We'd like to give special shout outs to Lou Vlahos of Val-Mac Construction for smoothing out the Bowdoin Circle at no charge, Paula Erickson for keeping the dog waste bag dispensers filled, Marc Castonguay for electrical work, Steve Calef for his continued donations to the Triangle Garden, and Susan and George Alger for donating two beach chairs placed at the beginning of the seasonal beach access that provides a relaxing view of Ipswich Bay.

Proactive During the Pandemic

The Board was proactive in a number of areas over the past several months. Adding Aldo, our terrific security guard and unofficial "mayor" of Clark Beach, on Fridays at the gate proved to be a wise decision. Our annual 50-50 raffle generated a record amount of funds to support the organization. AGN members also stepped up to help neighbors in need by donating more than \$3,000 to the Open Door's COVID-19 food drive at the start of the pandemic, of which the AGN matched the first \$1,000. Four deserving high school students each received a \$1,000 scholarship, and the AGN Board donated another \$500 to the Ipswich Dinner Bell. We look forward to the return of our annual meal volunteer event when they once again serve sit-down meals.

We also look forward to the return of the AGN SummerFest and the Turkey Tune-Up, and revisiting the fireworks with Ipswich Bay Yacht Club. We're sure you'll join us in hoping that the Summer of 2021 will include at least some sense of a return to normalcy and a renewal of these and other events.

Website Additions

The AGN Board has added a number of items to the association's website we hope you will find

Association of Great Neck

2020 End of Season Newsletter

informative. You can now find minutes of monthly meetings starting from this past June, when the current Board began its term. Please note that the posted minutes are approved by the Board at the subsequent meeting, so they lag about a month. In addition, the agenda for each upcoming meeting is now being posted prior to the meeting.

As this Board has taken a deep dive into the AGN's records to better learn and understand its history, we have discovered several pieces of information that are enlightening. The most important are minutes and votes from monthly meetings and Annual Meetings circa 2009 through 2012 that outline the current and most recent set of changes to AGN's bylaws. We encourage you to read this history to understand the guidelines that the members set for the Board to follow and how these changes – which were approved by the AGN membership – have remained in place over the past eight years.

Committees Renewed

The Board renewed many committees that had gone dormant over the past several years, to better serve all its members. In addition to the standing Nomination and Scholarship committees, we now have the following committees: Clark Beach Operations, Property, Activities, Finance, Communications, IBYC, and Proprietors of Great Neck. Please email info@associationofgreatneck.org if you are interested in volunteering. While expertise in one or more areas is always great, enthusiasm, a willingness to help out, and be part of a team are just as important. Many committees are busy starting on plans for the 2021 season.

In closing, your Board would like to say that it is a pleasure representing all AGN members and working to continue the association's original purpose: AGN was "created for social, recreational, educational, ecological and civic activities for the benefit of residents of Great Neck, Ipswich, Massachusetts, and the protection of natural resources for the public."

We wish you all a warm and joyous holiday season. Stay well and stay safe.

Your AGN Board

John Shaw, President
Berni Tragert, Vice President
Lianne Halloran, Secretary
Ray Best, Treasurer

Don Finocchio
Walter Hartford
Kelly Jung
David Keough

Ellen Laughton

**Association of Great Neck
2020 End of Season Newsletter**

Hal Moody
Diane Smith