

Townhall Questions

- Q: The December Property Committee Report was posted on the GSHPA site without any mention of the Cabot Gas and Oil lease proposals. I sincerely hope that it was not an offer that was or will be accepted. The Girl Scouts have always been stewards of the environment and a place for the girls to experience and learn in the outdoors. Will the council take the offer, what land plot is it proposed for and when will the initial construction begin if it is accepted?
- A: GSHPA has not received a proposal from Cabot Gas and Oil. We have held several conversations with Cabot to better understand the existing gas lease that exists at Camp Archbald.
- Q: How does GSHPA justify selling Camp Golden Pond in order to build an amphitheater at Camp Small Valley? Why should the girls from the western region feel as if they have any voice or value to the organization when their camp is being sold in order to benefit girls in Harrisburg? After watching GSHPA spend the past year essentially ignoring any attempts from the western region to work toward a resolution on the camp, it is hard to not think that the sale of Camp Golden Pond was anything more than a cash grab to fund other parts of the organization that do not benefit the western region.
- A: Camp Golden pond was not sold to support any potential or existing projects. It was sold based on the Board of Directors decision on November 3, 2017. All proceeds from sale of a property have gone into a Board designated account and can only be released for use by a Board of Directors majority vote.
- Q: The letters have been sent for water testing. We all know that that means you've already signed off and the drilling is imminent. You should be transparent about when and where this well pad will be placed. It is unbelievable that you'd enter into a new agreement for anything on the property since the original agreement. Meanwhile boast about Camp Small Valley construction. Where is the grant writing and conservancy for Camp Archbald. Do you only care about what will get you awards and acclaim? Do what a true Girl Scout would do and have true transparency. You might want to answer these questions again before you are embarrassed by your own deeds. When was the lease for the new pad called Girl Scout Well Pad signed? Where is it going? When is it being started? Remember we are Girl Scouts who were brought up to think... Your answers should be simple and complete.
- A: No change has been made to GSHPA's existing gas lease nor has GSHPA received a proposal from Cabot to change the existing gas lease. GSHPA recently invested dollars into Camp Archbald for a full wastewater feasibility study to better understand serious infrastructure issues. Additionally, the Board of Directors also released \$75,000 from the board designated fund to pay for environmentally required work on the waste water system. Further investments on any property that is under the review category will be considered, should those properties meet their revenue benchmarks.
- Q: 1. Is it true that GSUSA and/or GSHPA is in financial trouble due to pensions?
2. If 1 is true, then is that why camps are being sold across the country and within our council?
3. If 1 is true, please, I implore you to be transparent about it. Can you discuss your plan for the next 5-10 years to rectify the situation?

4. Is it true that camps in GSHPA were logged in a manner NOT consistent with current forest management suggestions to encourage sustainability and improve the health of the forest?

5. I have heard that camps, including Echo Trail were logged for safety reasons following lessons learned from Furnace Hills. How can this be true since the logging at Echo Trail was done AFTER it was closed? In my opinion this situation has not been handled very well. It appears the decisions have been made on a corporate model. However, this is a volunteer organization, whose goal is to serve the kids. The strength of this organization lies within the volunteers. They are not paid and therefore, their loyalty should not be assumed to be with the organization. Their loyalty is with their kids. They will do what is right for their kids. They are a passionate, creative, energetic group who will move mountains for their kids and any organization that supports their kids. Unfortunately, as of now, most of them feel lied to, not included/respected, and betrayed. I know I personally feel I'm not given the whole story, the truth behind the decisions. I find it VERY hard to believe that the kids don't want the camps. I have spoken with many of the kids in our Service Unit, including the one I live with, and the camps are very important to them. The experiences they have had at the camps is very important to them. I know everyone keeps telling me that there is nothing I can do to keep Echo Trail for the girls, but I just have to try. Please, reconsider. Please let us tap into our volunteers in a way that will get results! There is still time.

A: 1. GSHPA can only speak to its own financial standing. And to date, GSHPA is in good financial standing. The pension liabilities that GSHPA has does create pressure on the operational budget, which minimizes the number of dollars available for capital expenses. However, GSHPA continues to make appropriate decision to maintain a solid financial position.

2. GSHPA can only speak to its own experience. Our camp decisions were done as a result of a year-long study. To learn more about the findings and results, please visit the property committee portion of our website.

3. The Board of Directors decision to retain, review and retire properties, creates a sustainable and long term look at the number of properties GSHPA is able to maintain and at a realistic subsidy rate. For more information, please visit GSHPA's Property Committee portion of the website.

4. GSHPA has worked with a licensed forester at all camps that have undergone forestry management. Additionally, due to the time it takes to implement forestry management work, it was important that the process began prior to the Board's property decisions. We would encourage anyone who is passionate about a camp property to use those properties under review in order for them to meet the necessary revenue benchmarks.

Q: 1. GSUSA has advised that the decision to rest or sell a camp was not made lightly and was done with extensive input from community members as well as cost-benefit property analyses. Please provide the raw data for the community members input and copies of the cost-benefit property analyses so we can better understand GSUSA's decision.

2. GSUSA has advised that managing properties is a very complex and expensive proposition, and it's important we maintain our campgrounds at levels that ensure we continue to attract girls. Please provide a copy of the detailed maintenance expenses for the last 7 years for of Camp Echo Trail.

3. Please provide what portion of the cookie sales are allocated to each of the camps.

4. Occupancy costs for camps: a. What us the definition? b. What expenses are included in this number?

5. Whom did the Property Committee work with to develop the “responsible forestry” plan?

6. When and what company was used to assess the water situation? We would like to receive all documented information concerning the water situation.

- A:
1. A full review of GSHPA's Property Committee work can be found on the GSHPA website.
 2. All data available for review regarding camps can be found on GSHPA's website in the property committee section.
 3. For more information regarding cookie sales and proceeds, please visit the cookie portion of our website.
 4. The revenue benchmarks for those properties under review are based on the yearly operational budget of that property. They include all costs to maintain the property safely and properly, such as capital reserve, for long term maintenance.
 5. A licensed forester was used to oversee all forestry management plans.
 6. Assuming the water situation being referred to is Camp Echo Trail, water has been a concern on this property for almost 20 years. Many companies have reviewed these concerns. Unfortunately, the property was closed due to no viable access to potable water. For more information regarding this issue, please visit the property committee portion of our website.