

Long Island Civic Association
Spring Meeting Minutes – Draft 1
Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Attendees: David Backman, Martin Bruno, Jeff Greene, Eva Greger-Morse, Mike Houlihan, Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Karen Simmons, Jim Shine, Zoe Spearman, Jack Sullivan, Donnie Wright, Betsy Wright, Lorinda Valls

Standing Business:

* **Secretary's Report** – The minutes from January 10th, 2026 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

* **Treasurer's Report** – Jono Morini was not able to attend, so we did not have a Treasurer's report.

LICA Sponsored Events:

House Tour (June 27): Jane provided an update on planning for the House Tour. Ticket sales have been going well, with approximately \$4,600 raised to date. Tickets are priced at \$50 for the tour and lunch option, with additional tour-only tickets available for \$30. Beginning May 9th at the Town Meeting, LICA will begin actively marketing the event through a large flyer campaign and advertising in Portland. Proceeds from the event will support Fire & Rescue initiatives, specifically reflective house signs that include number and street name. Attendance is estimated at approximately 150 lunch ticket holders, in addition to an unlimited number of tour-only attendees. Homeowners' insurance will provide some event coverage. Volunteers will assist with ferrying attendees with mobility issues; Board members were encouraged to assist with the event. Tim, Lisa, Jack, Karen, and Zoe volunteered to help.

Concerns regarding LICA's liability were discussed. The group noted that LICA's Directors and Officers Policy may provide some coverage. A discussion regarding insurance coverage for the House Tour followed. Dave Backman shared research he had conducted, including a quote of approximately \$400 for event insurance covering golf cart transportation and alcohol service at the after-party. The possibility of obtaining annual insurance coverage for all LICA events was also discussed. The Board agreed that Mike Houlihan would research this further and bring recommendations to the June LICA meeting for discussion.

Donnie Wright shared samples of the proposed house signs, which the Board agreed looked excellent.

Donnie then provided background on the Fire & Rescue wayfinding initiative. Long Island currently has only four or five EMTs, and staffing remains extremely fragile. Current personnel are working consecutive three-day shifts while remaining on call. The possibility of overnight coverage from off-island EMTs was discussed, raising concerns about how responders unfamiliar with the island would navigate, particularly since many homes do not have visible house numbers.

The project's goal is to ensure every home has clearly visible address signage so Fire & Rescue personnel can locate residences quickly during emergencies. Approximately 419 reflective signs are expected to be installed.

The Board agreed that wayfinding signage is long overdue. Donnie explained that street signage, while also needed, is beyond the scope of what LICA can accomplish with funds from the House Tour this summer. District representatives were asked whether they would be willing to assist in coordinating the rollout and distribution of the house signs across the island. Donnie emphasized the importance of completing the project this summer and achieving strong participation from residents.

The following individuals volunteered to assist with the project: Jack Sullivan, Katharine, Lorinda, and Tim Honey.

Committee Reports:

* **Membership:** Karen Simmons and Dave Backman provided an update on membership. LICA currently has 332 members. The Board discussed strategies for reminding individuals who have not yet paid their dues for 2026 that the upcoming newsletter issue would be their last unless they renew.

Board members also discussed additional ways to encourage membership growth, including increasing LICA's visibility within the community and relying on word-of-mouth outreach. Members emphasized the importance of promoting the newsletter and continuing to "spread the word" about the organization and its work.

Lorinda shared background on the history of the newsletter, and highlighted that LICA continues to serve as an important funding source for community organizations and as a voice for the Long Island community.

The possibility of incorporating poetry and fiction writing into future newsletter editions was also discussed. Lorinda and Karen will spread the word about this idea to island writers.

* **Property:** Jane provided updates on recent projects.

Fowler's Beach

The town is looking at applying for a Maine Adaptation and Infrastructure Grant to protect the road near Fowler's Beach. Jane will have more to share about this in June.

Ball Field

Chris Poulin reported to Jono that damage to the ball field is minimal. Our maintenance budget should cover the costs of remediation and there will be additional updates in June from Jono.

* **Nominating:** Lorinda Valls and Jane Oldfield-Spearman provided an update on the work of the Nominating Committee.

Current LICA Board members who are up for election in August were asked to consider whether they would like to continue serving on the Board for another two year term.

*** Community Benefits Committee:** Eva shared that we have been fairly quiet over the winter.

Eva is hoping to reconvene the committee again to discuss publicizing the available remaining Casco Bay Island Alliance (CBIA) funds when people are around. There is around \$1400 left in the CBIA grant. The intention is that this money be put to work as soon as possible.

Tiny Murphy Award: Karen provided an update on the Tiny Murphy Award process, noting that the process has been working well this year.

Karen clarified that nominations submitted via mail should be sent well in advance of the deadline to ensure they are received on time. This year, eight nominees were submitted for consideration.

Karen shared that the committee held an excellent meeting following the nomination deadline and expressed how much she learned through the process. She also noted that she was proud to be part of the committee's work. The award plaque has been prepared, and the commemorative clock has been ordered.

A discussion followed regarding the nomination criteria. Karen noted that she had not previously understood that nominees are not limited to contributions made within the past year, but may also recognize individuals for a lifetime of meaningful service and dedication to the community.

As a next step, Jane suggested that Karen revise the nominee submission language and share it with the group of former award recipients for feedback. Former winners will be invited to participate in revising the language, after which the LICA Board will review the proposed updates during the fall or winter.

Summer Events Planning

The group discussed planning for upcoming summer events, including:

- July 4th Parade: porta potty ordered by Karen
- Road Race: porta potty ordered by Karen
- Linda Papkee Picnic: Need to confirm who orders porta potty for the beach?
 - Jack says it is a good idea to run over some food to deckhands and to the folks working at the Transfer Station to say thanks
- Sandcastle Contest: Sarah Lachance has run for several years – Jane to reach out to her to see if she will run it again this year
- CBL appreciation day: Eva will run this again. Anne Marie Train has offered to help as well

Old Business:

Marty provided an update on the LICA Board Manual and shared that he has updated the LICA portion of the manual. He thanked Board members who have already submitted materials and contributions.

The goal of the manual is to better document LICA's processes and activities so that new Board members can transition into their roles more efficiently and effectively. Marty noted that additional contributions are especially needed for event-related activities and committees.

Board members participating on committees were encouraged to send Marty checklists, timelines, and other documentation to help capture procedures and responsibilities for future reference.

Other Business:

The Board discussed updates regarding the LICA Google account and email account. It was noted that several account credentials had previously been missing, but access and setup issues have now largely been resolved.

LICA has successfully enrolled in Google for Nonprofits and is now ready to begin using the platform's services. This includes access to free Google Meet functionality.

The possibility of using Google Meet for the June meeting was discussed, though additional conversation and planning will be needed before making a final decision.

* **Districts:** There were no updates from the districts.

Future Meeting Schedule:

June 13th, 2026 – In Person/Zoom General Meeting

July 25th, 2026 - In Person/Zoom General Meeting

August 29th, 2026 - In Person/Zoom Annual Meeting