

Long Island Civic Association (LICA)
Summer Board Meeting Minutes – Draft 1
Saturday, July 25th, 2026

Attendees: David Backman, Martin Bruno, Dawn Marie Hutchinson, Barbara Drymala, Jono Morini, Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Karen Simmons, Patrick Spearman, Zoe Spearman, Jack Sullivan, Paul Thornton, Lorinda Valls, Tim Honey

Standing Business:

* **Secretary's Report** – Zoe presented the secretary's report. The minutes from the June 13th, 2026 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

* **Treasurer's Report** – Jono Morini presented the Treasurer's Report and budget update as of June 1st, 2026. Overall, there have been few changes since the previous report. The primary upcoming expense is the annual picnic, which took place on July 18th, with related costs expected to be incurred before August 1st, 2026.

The Board discussed the \$3,000 that had been earmarked for the House Tour. Given that the Long Island Neighbors House Tour received significant outside donations, less than one-third of LICA's allocated funding was needed for the event. As a result, the Board agreed that the remaining funds should instead be reserved for other community projects.

The Board also discussed the Association's budget and recurring year-over-year operating deficit. Members questioned whether continuing to operate at a deficit is sustainable and noted that the issue of increasing annual dues is raised each year but has historically not moved forward. The Board agreed that a more substantive discussion about dues should take place in the future.

An agenda item for next time was raised: During the discussion, Jono advocated for increasing annual dues for LICA's 342 members to help address the ongoing deficit. This should be added to the agenda for the August meeting. Since last August, the Community Benefits Committee has been created, which has a funding request form for community members.

It was reported that money allocated at the last LICA General Meeting for the Town's brush clean up will not be needed after all. The Town found alternative funds for this project.

The Membership Committee raised the question of changing our current bylaw that states all membership terms begin on January 1st. The proposal would be to have each membership begin on the date of payment. The Joint membership payment system automates and individualizes membership expiration reminders.

The Membership Committee was asked to prepare a formal proposal for consideration at the August Board meeting. The proposal should include the specific bylaw amendments needed to implement the change.

Another member mentioned that having pages in the LICA newsletter for the Town Select Board minutes might not be a good use of funds. Others stated that the tradition of printing the minutes in the newsletter has the value of raising awareness of town affairs. All agreed that printing cost and postage has gone up over the years and current dues are not sufficient to cover the costs of the newsletter..

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

* **Membership:** This was covered during the treasurer's report. The Membership Committee will hold a meeting in the coming week to prepare a proposed by-law change for the Annual Meeting. Please email Jane Oldfield-Spearman if you are interested in attending.

* **Property:**

Fowler's Beach: Jane Oldfield-Spearman reported that a webinar was held on July 16, 2026, and was recorded for those unable to attend. This webinar will be posted on the Town's webpage. She noted that a community survey to gain input on the project will be distributed through the LICA listserv, the Town website, and the Town's Facebook page in the next week or two.

Jane also announced that a public meeting will be held on August 27, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The meeting, facilitated by Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), will present the results of the site assessment and alternatives analysis and provide an opportunity for community members to discuss and provide feedback on the proposed alternatives.

Jane further reported on the Town's application for a Maine Adaptation and Resilience Infrastructure Grant. The grant would support nature-based shoreline resilience and mitigation measures at Fowler's Beach, including improvements to both the shoreline and the adjacent roadway. The Town will learn if we are awarded this grant sometime in the fall.

Lorinda noted that a swim buoy is needed on the second side of Fowlers Beach. She will try to find the buoy and Jono will see if Henry McVane can drop it in the water for us. This is usually accomplished by the Town's Harbor Master, but this position is currently vacant.

Ball Field: Jono reported that the ball field is looking great!

* **Nominating:** Jane Oldfield-Spearman provided an update on the work of the Nominating Committee. Positions that are up for election are: VP, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and District Representatives. Lorinda and Jane are currently preparing the slate for the Annual Meeting. If anyone wants to step away from the board, please let Jane know.

* **Community Benefits Committee:** Zoe Spearman reported that we have not had any additional funding requests since the June LICA meeting.

* **Districts:** No district reports were shared.

LICA Sponsored Events:

House Tour (June 27): Jane provided an update on the June 27 House Tour. The funds have already been used to purchase house number signs for all Island properties. Karen Simmons shared that she thinks we need extra signs and arrows to help people figure out where they need to go. Some neighborhoods are already considering purchasing some extra way-finding signs. The town also has a mandate to put up signs, but this may take some time.

Summer Events Planning

The group discussed how well the summer events went, including:

- July 4th Parade
- Road Race
- Linda Papkee Picnic
- Sandcastle Contest

They also discussed the upcoming CBL appreciation day, which Eva Morse will lead again on August 19th.

A question was raised regarding the 4th of July fireworks as a member wondered how to donate towards the cost. The fireworks are organized by a group of enthusiasts (not LICA), including Eric Oldfield, Brad Beeler and Mark Aierstok. Jane shared contact information for Eric for anyone who wanted to contribute towards firework expenses.

Other Business:

* **Board Manuel** – Marty Bruno would like some more information regarding the summer events. If you have information please send it to Marty so that he can add it to the LICA board manual he is working on. We should discuss this at the August Meeting.

* **Zoom vs. Google Meet** – Dave Backman shared an update. LICA now has a non-profit Google Account and can use Google Meet for on-line meetings. We will try using this for our online meeting in the Winter. Dave Backman will get us set up for this.

*** Deer Overpopulation –**

Tim Honey presented a proposal to establish a Lyme Mitigation Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to bring together community members and organizations to develop a coordinated plan for addressing Lyme disease as a public health concern. There are many resources about Maine Islands coping with Lyme disease and deer overpopulation. Controlling the size of the herd was discussed as were approaches such as grass cutting and public education. The Deer Reduction Committee, Town Select Board and the Wellness Committee could become partners in this effort. Dawn Marie offered to help.

The LICA Board voted to recognize the creation of the Lyme Mitigation Task Force.

Tim was asked to provide an update on the task force's progress at the August Board meeting, if available.

Future Meeting Schedule:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56AM.