

Long Island Civic Association (LICA)
Spring Board Meeting Minutes – Draft 1
Saturday, June 13th, 2026

Attendees: David Backman, Martin Bruno, Barbara Drymala, Jeff Greene, Mark Greene, Eva Greger-Morse, Mike Houlihan, Hazel Johnson, Michael Johnson, Kathy Kellerman, Chris McDuffie, Steve McDuffie, Jono Morini, Penny Murley, Nancy Noble, Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Glenn Page, Karen Simmons, Patrick Spearman, Zoe Spearman, Paul Thornton, Lisa Whelan, Lorinda Valls, Tim Honey, Katharine Stewart, Ralph Sweet, Joel Greene

Standing Business:

* **Secretary's Report** – Zoe presented the secretary's report. The minutes from May 2nd, 2026 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

* **Treasurer's Report** – Marty Bruno presented the Treasurer's Report and budget update as of June 1, 2026. Total projected revenue is expected to exceed budget by \$1,482, driven by stronger-than-anticipated revenue performance during the fiscal year. Community contributions are projected to exceed budget by \$1,579, primarily due to a \$1,500 contribution to the Community Gym that was not included in the original budget.

Despite higher revenues, the Association is projected to end the fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$7,549, compared to the budgeted deficit of \$6,645, a variance of \$904. Projected expenses are expected to exceed budget by \$808, with increased costs in communications, JointIt/Stripe fees, ballfield mowing, website hosting, and ballfield improvements. These increases were partially offset by savings from budgeted projects that were not undertaken during the year.

Sponsored events are projected to finish in line with budget, with the Fourth of July activities and Community Picnic expected to operate at planned net losses. The Board accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by a unanimous vote.

Committee Reports:

* **Membership:** Karen Simmons and Dave Backman provided an update on membership. Membership remains strong, with 340 members currently enrolled. Approximately 70% of members are now registered through JointIt, and the number of members paying by check continues to decline, resulting in significant time savings for administrative processing. Karen noted that JointIt has been a valuable tool and has greatly streamlined membership management.

* **Property:**

Fowler's Beach: Jane Oldfield-Spearman reported that there was a beach grass planting in May that was made possible by a beach grass donation to LICA from the McAleneys. Jane

mentioned that a swim buoy has been placed out on Fowler's beach. She does not know who put this out there, but we are grateful! It was decided that in lieu of a Fowler's Beach work party, David Backman would weed wack the paths to the beach again this month.

Then, the LICA Board heard an update from Jane on the Tighe and Bond assessment of Fowlers Beach and community engagement this summer. Through a grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, an environmental and engineering assessment of Fowler's Beach and the adjacent roadway is being conducted by Tighe & Bond. A final report is expected within the next one to two weeks.

An online webinar, co-sponsored by the Island Institute, will be held on July 16 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The webinar will present the assessment results and highlight community efforts to steward Fowler's Beach. The session will be interactive and will provide an opportunity for public questions. This session will be advertised broadly by Island Institute.

A second meeting is planned later in the summer and will be held in person, with a hybrid option under consideration. During these meetings, approximately four potential adaptation options for the beach and roadway will be discussed before being presented to the Select Board. Any future decisions will be made collaboratively by the Town, LICA, and the Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay.

The Board also discussed a pending application for a Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund grant to support roadway improvements along the road. Notification of grant funding is not expected until October or November.

The Board and members of the community discussed concerns regarding the storm fencing installed at Fowler's Beach in September 2025. The fencing was re-established to protect dune grass, discourage foot traffic through sensitive dune areas, and help retain sand along the beach.

Several community members expressed support for the dune restoration efforts, including appreciation for the McAleneys' donation of beach grass. It was noted that the dune grass is becoming established and that the fencing is helping to stabilize the dunes and retain sand. Board members and attendees discussed the distinction between seasonal beach conditions and the natural evolution of the shoreline over time.

Another community member expressed concerns about the visual impact of the fencing and the perceived loss of usable beach area, particularly during high tide. Questions were raised regarding the location of the fence and whether alternative placements could better balance dune protection with public access.

Board members explained that the fence location was selected following discussions among stakeholders and was placed closer to the roadway than some had preferred in order to preserve public access. It was noted that fencing is a common method for stabilizing dunes and retaining sand, and that the current approach remains part of an ongoing evaluation process of best practices.

The Board also discussed the use of Mobi-Mats installed in 2023 to improve beach access and acknowledged the significant impacts of recent storms on the shoreline. Tighe & Bond is utilizing historical mapping data to assess changes to the beach over time and evaluate potential future adaptation measures.

Additional topics included ongoing shoreline monitoring efforts, and questions regarding the trimming of bayberry vegetation near the beach for safety and visibility purposes.

An agenda item for next time was raised: the possibility of reaching out to the owners of a property destroyed during the 2024 storms to determine whether they might be interested in donating the parcel to LICA for conservation purposes.

Ball Field

- Jono was not present for this part of the meeting so the Board did not address the ballfield maintenance budget specifically, but they believe that it should cover the costs of remediation of damage from vehicles on the field last fall. Softball games have already begun.

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

- Positions up for election this year:
 - District Representatives , VP, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary

*** Community Benefits Committee:** Eva provided an update from the Community Benefits Committee and welcomed Janice Avignon to the meeting.

The committee discussed a proposed wildfire prevention initiative in partnership with the Maine State Forest Service. The project would involve collecting and chipping home owner brush piles as a pilot effort to reduce wildfire risk. While the Forest Service can provide the equipment and labor, transportation costs associated with barge service are not covered and would require local funding.

The Town has expressed support for the project and may contribute a portion of the barge costs. The committee proposed that LICA provide funding of up to \$1,200 to cover any remaining barge costs not funded by the Town. Brush generated through the project would be chipped, and participating property owners would have the option of retaining the wood chips.

Board members discussed project administration, including how funds would be distributed and whether payments would be made directly to the Town or to the barge company upon invoicing. It was noted that participating properties had not yet been identified. Applications will be made available to all residents through local listservs, the Town website, and the community Facebook group, with participants selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

A motion was made to authorize funding for the project in an amount not to exceed \$1,200. The motion passed by a vote of 9 in favor and 6 opposed.

* **Districts:** Katherine, representing District 2, reported ongoing concerns regarding storm-related debris and marine equipment in Harbor de Grace. During recent heavy southeasterly storms, debris located across from the harbor, including remnants of a World War II-era float, became dislodged and contributed to shoreline impacts. Concerns were also raised about lobster traps remaining on the flats and not being removed by their owners.

Katherine noted that approximately 60 tons of debris have been removed from the area to date, but cleanup efforts remain costly and ongoing. She also expressed concern about damage occurring along the harbor shoreline. Community volunteers, including local children, have contributed significant time and effort to cleanup and restoration activities around the harbor.

The Board agreed that these concerns should be brought to the attention of the Select Board and the Resilience Team for further discussion and consideration.

LICA Sponsored Events:

House Tour (June 27): Jane provided an update on the upcoming House Tour scheduled for June 27. The event is expected to serve as a fundraiser for Long Island Fire & Rescue, with a goal of raising approximately \$6,000–\$7,000.

Jane also reported on the rollout of new residential address signs designed to improve emergency response by making properties easier to locate. Residents are encouraged to watch for their signs, and assistance will be available for installation. Thanks were extended to Donnie and Betsey Wright for their work designing the signs. Residents may choose to mount the signs on their homes or on nearby trees, as appropriate.

Board members encouraged community members to purchase tickets and attend the event in support of this important fundraiser.

Summer Events Planning

The group discussed planning for upcoming summer events, including:

- July 4th Parade: Marie Harmon is leading this effort
- Road Race: 8AM
- Linda Papkee Picnic: costs of Porta Potty - Steve McDuffie reported on it.
 - Used to be \$130 but now much more expensive \$250-\$500 (not including getting it to the island)
 - It was decided to hire a porta potty for month of July, as planned
- Sandcastle Contest: Sarah LaChance will lead again this year
- CBL appreciation day: Eva Morse leads again this year

Other Business:

Michael Houlihan presented information regarding the purchase of General Liability Insurance for LICA. The proposed policy would provide blanket liability coverage for LICA-sponsored events and activities, offering protection in the event of injury claims or related legal actions against the organization.

The annual premium was reported to be \$331. Board members discussed the affordability of the policy and noted that the cost was reasonable given the scope of coverage provided. A motion to purchase General Liability Insurance for LICA was brought before the Board and was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Items held to July Board Meeting: update on Board Manual, Zoom vs Google Meet for future meetings; Deer Overpopulation.

Future Meeting Schedule:

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

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

Team Zostera, Casco Bay Seagrass Stewards Presentation:

Following the Board meeting, attendees heard a presentation from Team Zostera, Casco Bay Seagrass Stewards, on the importance of eelgrass conservation and restoration. The presenters highlighted the critical role eelgrass meadows play in carbon sequestration, coastal protection, water quality, marine habitat, and the overall health of Casco Bay, while emphasizing the significant decline of eelgrass populations in recent decades.

Team Zostera encouraged community involvement in ongoing research and restoration efforts, including opportunities to volunteer with underwater monitoring, data collection, and documenting the flowering stages of eelgrass. If you are interested, please reach out to Hazel Johnson!

Upcoming activities include drone-based multispectral imaging off Fowler's Beach on **July 17th**, additional community presentations on Long Island the summer and the annual Kayley Dance fundraiser on **November 21th** at State Street Church. Community members interested in participating in fieldwork, interviews documenting historical changes in eelgrass, or other restoration activities were invited to connect with Hazel Johnson.