

Long Island Civic Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2024

The meeting was convened by Michael Houlihan at 9:10 at the Long Island Community Center and was also available to for participation on Zoom.

Attending: Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Michael Houlihan, Nancy Noble, Ava Morse, Steve Hart, Penny Murley, Kurt Murley, David Backman, Marilyn Connor, Caitlyn Byers, Lorinda Valls, Lou Sesto, Jack Sullivan, Tim Honey, Brad Brown, Jono Morini, Chris McDuffie, Doug McCown, Marty Bruno, Katharine Stewart, Catlin Byers, Jeff Greene, Lynn LaMontagne

It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of capturing the details for the minutes. All present were in agreement that this be allowed.

Standing Business:

* **Secretary's Report** – The minutes from July 20th general meeting were reviewed. A motion was received to approve the minutes. This was tabled until a quorum was available. At 9:20 a motion was made to approve the Secretary's Report. All approved this motion.

* **Treasurer's Report:** Jono Morini shared the Treasure's report (see attached). This year's fiscal budget was reviewed. A \$1,000 deficit was predicted but we will be above that due to higher costs for the ballfield maintenance. Ballfield maintenance is needed every four years and should be budgeted for. This year these expenses were taken from the General Fund, per the decision of the Board. We received almost \$500 more in donations from the Papkee Picnic this year than expected. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total budget is spent to produce and mail the newsletter each year. Lynn noted that we should expect to budget at least \$30 per person for the the LI Fire & Rescue appreciation. This is cost is going to increase next year due to inflation and the increased numbers of volunteers who should be recognized.

We have \$119,000 in reserves. Jono is renegotiating the terms of our endowment funds with TD Bank. Our revenues are predicted to be \$17,000 next year. The annual dues have not been raised since 2013 or 2014. Running a small deficit each year is reasonably sustainable and is recommended instead of raising dues.

A motion was made to increase the budget for the LI Fire and Rescue Appreciation budget from \$998 to \$1,400. All approved this motion.

A motion was made to approve the 2024-2025 Treasure's Report. All approved this motion.

LICA Sponsored Events

* **CBL Appreciation Day** (3rd Weds in August * 8/21) Eva Gregor has offered to lead this. No report.

Committee Reports:

* **District Reports:** No reports were given at this time. Lynn LaMontagne's second term as the District 3 Representative on the Board has ended. Thanks were given for her service.

* **Membership:** Karen Simmons could not be present – no report.

* **Property:**

- **Ballfield:** Jono reports that the ballfield is in good repair and softball games were well attended. The sheds need to be cleaned out of broken grills and other items like the old ice rink. Karen Simmons has offered to organize a work party but no update at this time. Mike suggested that the work party occur before the next Papkee Picnic in July. Jack Sullivan says there are 5 grills were used this year but 2 of them are very shaky. We could use 2 new ones. It was agreed that 2 new grills should be purchased and Jono will investigate the cost.

- **Fowlers Beach:** There was a discussion of how to control erosion. The road is at risk from winter storms. Chris McDuffie recalled that snow fencing has healed the dune in the past and served to protect the road. Fencing would need to be repaired annually. Chris made the following motion:

In order to rebuild the dunes at Fowlers Beach and protect Jerry Point road from becoming eroded and unuseable, I move that:

1. LICA make a firm commitment to in spring, 2025, evaluating the effectiveness of the temporary stake and twine exclusion fencing as a means of rebuilding the Fowlers Beach dunes.
2. If this method has not accomplished that result, consider once again installing snow fencing at the front of the dunes. Snow fencing has been successful in the past, so long it is repaired annually, in replenishing the sand and healing the dunes after they were ripped by storms.

Discussion: How do we measure if the dunes have been eroded? Jane mentioned that dune measurement stakes that were wiped out in the winter storms were replace in the spring, 2024. These stakes disappeared, mysteriously, and so no measurements were taken this summer. Chris recommended that snow fencing be placed 15 feet from the road. Jane stated that the experts we consulted in the last couple years recommended against snow fencing due to sea level rise. The wire and metal stakes will wash into the sea in the winter. Chris says she has never known of the fencing going into the sea – it needs to be removed when it breaks down and then be replaced.

Jane reports that the Town of Long Island is participating in a community science project with Gulf of Maine Research Institute to monitor coastal erosion. Fowlers Beach is one of 4 sites on Long Island. A sign with instructions on how to upload images of the beach will be placed next month at Fowlers.

Motion was approved by all present.

Ava mentioned that this summer a large tent was left on the beach for more than a week. The tent was an obstruction to other beach goers and the ropes were a trip hazard. It was confirmed that this is against LICA rules. Chris mentioned that fireworks are never permitted on the beach and people should not violate this rule. It was suggested that LICA post the beach guidelines more prominently in the summertime on a portable sandwich board sign. The LICA rules are posted in the newsletter. Next spring/summer we should put out a reminder about the rules on the list serve. The process for requesting a fire permit on Fowlers Beach is published in the Newsletter each summer. Fire permits that are approved in writing by a LICA board member and the fire chief. It would be good to notify the entire LICA board when a permit is given so all are aware that the fire has been permitted. The rules for safely having a camp fire and for extinguishing the fire is defined by the Long Island Fire Department in their permit process. Mike will talk with the Fire Chief about the rules for fires and update the Board at our next meeting. We will also revisit the issue of signage at Fowlers at our next meeting.

Old Business:

CBL Appreciation Day: Ava was in charge of this event this year and lots of folks pitched in to help. Treats were delivered to every boat that day. Lynn Finegold delivered treats to the 5ams boat. Ann Marie Train provided lunch to the whole CBL crew in town and on the ferries. The Rec Department did not participate this year but Alana Rich made beautiful signs on palettes that were displayed on the wharf. If someone on Facebook could help with building support for the event next year, there would likely be even more community support. Ava offered to send an article with photos to Chris for the newsletters. Long Island is the only island that does this for CBL.

*** LICA Website needs to be updated *** Marty Bruno and David Backman offered to work on this. Jane, Chris and Michael offered to review the content that is there now and make suggestions for what could be added. Note that Sarah LaChance offered to help with the logo and branding at the June meeting. The Wix web host subscription must be renewed annually.

*** LICA Annual Social** - August 16th, 4p to 7p was held at Michael's cottage on 11 Harrington Lane. A good time was had by all.

New Business:

***Request for donation for low noise pickleball rackets and container:** Evergreen Church was approached with a request for donation to address the noise problems associated with pickleball at the LI Learning Center and they asked LICA to consider funding the request as a community benefit. Pickleball noise has brought complaints from abutters.

A motion was made that LICA allocate \$1,000 to purchase low noise rackets and a container.

Discussion: There is no way to be sure people will use the low noise equipment. The equipment needs to be tested to be sure it works well and will be used by players. Some suggest there is no such thing as a quiet pickleball. How do we know if the equipment will really be quiet enough to satisfy the abutters? The equipment might be stolen. There is a need for a committee of players who research the best equipment to use. Perhaps the town would need to mandate that quiet equipment is used for this to work. Maybe the courts should be moved somewhere else where noise would not be an issue? New courts would cost in the realm of \$45,000. Since the children play pickleball, a donation of rackets could be made to the Rec. Department.

No vote was taken. It was agreed that LICA would allocate up to \$500 for quiet equipment. Steve Hart and Lou Sesto will update the Board at our next meeting on how the equipment is working out and whether or not further funds are desired for a box to hold the equipment.

***Nominating:**

Catlin presented the new slate:

Slate Nominated:

Marty Bruno, Vice President
Jono Morini, Treasurer
Karen Simmons, Corresponding Secretary
Tim Honey for District 1
Katharine Stewart, District 2
Lorinda Valls, District 4
David Backman, Member at Large

There are 2 positions on the Board that are unfilled at this time: Member at Large and District 3 Representative.

Motion to approve the new slate was approved by all.

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Good & Welfare of LICA: no offerings

Future Meetings:

Zoom: December TBA 2024

Zoom: June 21, 2025

Zoom: July 19, 2025

In Person: August 23, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary, Jane Oldfield-Spearman