

**Lordship Improvement Association
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

July 16, 2025

Our Lady of Peace Parrish Hall, 651 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT

LIA Board Attendees: Jim Warren, Sue Birge, Jane Scofield, John Florian

Committee Chair Attendees: Christine Griffin, Karen Kochiss

Attendees: Approximately 60 LIA members and general public

Call to Order:

Jim Warren welcomed all, introduced LIA Board members, and said that intended guest speaker Stefan Martin, Conservation Manager with the Connecticut Audubon Society, was unable to attend the meeting due to a schedule change. Christine Griffin described Stefan's current role and career highlights.

Presentation of CLCC's Climate Smart Planning Grant to LIA

State Rep. Joseph Gresko formally announced the awarding of a \$6,000 grant to the LIA from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) and CT Department of Agriculture for the planning and design of the LIA's Lordship Bluffs Restoration Project. The plan will address control of native species, maintaining native species, enhancing biodiversity, and support for migratory birds and insects. Thanks were expressed to Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick and Town Council member Bryan O'Connor for their letters of support for the grant.

Rep. Gresko also noted:

- The FAA has approved temporary closure of Runway 6-24 at Sikorsky Memorial Airport to allow crane access for reconstruction of tidal passageways on Lordship Blvd. The project is expected to take three to four months, during which the road will be closed.
- The federal GSA is in the process of disposing three parcels at the Stratford Point Lighthouse. The first parcel, to the south of the lighthouse, will be deeded to the Town of Stratford. The remaining two parcels will be put out for bids, with the GSA favoring transfer to the Town.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Birge reported the LIA's income and expenses for FY 2024-25, including the number of contributing Lordship households, and the current balance. (See accompanying report for details). A motion was made and seconded to approve the report, and the report was approved by membership.

Beautification Committee Report

Committee Chair Karen Kochiss reported:

- Thank you to garden captains and volunteer workers during the May Bluffs and Russian Beach cleanups, including help with culvert rock placement.
- Daffodils planted in a project last fall were a success this spring, and the project area will be expanded.
- Intended Saturday work parties recently have been cancelled due to rain.

Environment and Education Committee Report

Committee Chair Christine Griffin reported:

- The Raptor Program will be held again.

- The Trial Pollinator Garden at the Lordship Bluffs features native plantings and only natural watering. Native plant donations are encouraged, and also appreciated are rocks added to the garden border to defend against invasive plants and high tide incursion, and cardboard boxes to help suppress weeds. She also asked people to not step on prickly pear plants as they walk the Bluffs paths.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Committee Chair John Florian reported:

- Thank you to 29 Lordship residents who submitted excellent photos and art for consideration for the LIA's 2026 'Lordship by the Sea' fundraising calendar. The Calendar Committee is winding up the difficult selection process, after which the calendar will be designed and available for sale in mid September in local stores and online (courtesy of the Mellow Monkey).
- Thank you also to all calendar advertisers and sales hosts who have returned to support this sixth annual calendar.
- LIA news and articles are being followed at the LIA Facebook Group page (457 members), LIA NEWS blog (254 subscribers) and the NextDoor/Lordship community.

Old Business

- Golf Cart Task Force: Formation was announced of a 7-member task force to study and recommend solutions to use of golf carts at the Lordship Bluffs. The task force is independent of the LIA Board, and is requested to report conclusions by September. A discussion ensued about the Town's right-of-way on the Bluffs and its restrictions.

New Business / Public Comments

- John Dobos thanked the LIA for public events, and said that Our Lady Of Peace Church was happy to host the LIA Annual Meeting in its Parish Hall.
- The LIA Board nominating process was questioned and explained.
- Concern was expressed about boats left on Russian Beach, and wear-and-tear on pathways as boats are transported to the beach. The LIA policy is for all boats to be removed annually for the winter by October 31. It was also noted that rafts anchored in the water outside the beach are beyond the purview of the LIA.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm

Hans Drenkard
LIA Board Secretary Emeritus