

Lordship Improvement Association
Quarterly Committee Meeting
May 12, 2026

Attendees: Jon Brody, Vickie Canevari, Jen Watkins, Susan Birge, Jane Scofield, Marcella Rooney, Committees: Emily Viner, Karen Kochiss

Open Meeting Called to Order 7:04 PM

Previous meeting minutes sent by email were accepted as posted.

Statement of New Leadership

- LIA President Vickie gave opening remarks on board appointments and process pursuant to the corporate by-laws, highlighting that the process to replace Board members who resign mid-term is for the Board to propose, vet and vote on a replacement to serve out the remaining term.
- LIA Associate President Jen gave opening remarks on vision for her service and focus areas, with an emphasis on neighborly activities and educational events that celebrate the Lordship community and support this special resource.
 - New Communications Chair John Brody gave an update on a more flexible boat policy (see policy: <https://www.lordshipct.org/boats-personalpropertyonbeach>)
- Jon also gave a reminder that the LIA does not have the jurisdiction to override a prohibition on unlicensed floating platforms, per CT DEEP regulations.

Committee Reports

Treasurer

See Financial Report

Burgess

- Discussion that future weddings and gatherings on the Bluffs should avoid the use of heavy machinery or equipment, where possible. Board emphasized this is not a ban on gatherings, but rather an effort to minimize damage to the protected land. Community discussion and feedback on this approach relative to conservation and community goals was encouraged for future sessions. Update also highlighted the increasing popularity of the Lighthouse as a venue.
- Wedding on the Bluffs scheduled for September - mid-day event with low impact on conservation efforts.
- Yoga on the Bluffs approved.

Communications

- 2027 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR
Fantastic photos and art are arriving for consideration in the LIA's 2027 fundraising calendar, themed LORDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS. Deadline for submissions is June 15, and we'll go to press in late August, to start sales in early to mid September. The 2026 calendar was a sellout at 175 copies, so we will order 200. All advertising spaces are expected to be sold again.
- SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE
The LIA communicates to the Lordship community through three social media channels and the LIA website. In spring, summer and fall we'd like to post news and articles at least weekly. Currently, the social media posts go to:
 - LIA Facebook Group: 478 members
 - LIA NEWS Blog: 251 subscribers
 - NextDoor/Lordship neighborhood
- LIA WEBSITE
Everything you want to know about the LIA is here: www.LordshipCT.org. The LIA NEWS Blog tab retains all news and links to articles.

Beautification

- RUSSIAN BEACH CLEAN-UP, APRIL 25
 1. Twenty-four people signed volunteer sheets and about 15 more who just worked.
 - a. Daffodils deadheaded.
 - b. Rocks placed to define walkways to protect prickly pear cactus (our only native cactus, and is becoming a concern due to habitat loss)
 - c. Rocks placed blow culverts.
 - d. Moveable wood was placed behind snow fences for support.
 - e. Some mugwort was removed with great difficulty, but not enough to make a difference.
 2. About 30 bags of debris and bulk items were removed by PW that afternoon.
 3. Joe Gresko was notified regarding large heavy pontoon item located at the point.
 4. Two volunteers found smoldering embers beneath the sand from a previous night's fire. They covered the area with sand and stone.
- FUTURE EDUCATION PLANS UNDERGOING RESEARCH
 1. Bird identification Nature Trail Walk with Stephan Martin (waiting to hear back from him)
 2. Construction of ecological wildlife gardening habitat – ongoing research
 3. Continued removal of mugwort from trial garden. Monthly removal continues of rhizomes - spread horizontally and are stems with nodes, etc.
 4. Hoping native flower seeds from trial garden will populate open areas.

Education & Environment and Grant Update

- Emily outlined that mowing will be postponed in May for conservation grant research, with mowing to resume June 1.

Open Comments

- One community member suggested that the LIA take up a boat storage & no fire policy.
- No other open comments or discussion.

Public Session Called to Adjourn 7:43 PM