

Lordship Improvement Association, Inc.
Board Meeting
September 29, 2026

MINUTES

In attendance: Vickie Canevari, Susan Birge, Jane Scofield, Ken Sorrentino, Christine Griffin

Others in Attendance: Will Farmer

1. Call to Order: President Vickie Canevari called the meeting to order at 7:37pm

2. Committee Reports

- Communications Report
 - Website: Discussion took place regarding improvement of current LIA website to make it more inviting, the information more accessible, and more modern. Will Farmer proposes getting someone who can create a better website while ensuring the security of not losing any data. Will Farmer will coordinate the construction of new site as a contribution to the Lordship Improvement Association, Inc. The Board expressed appreciation for Will's expertise and generosity.
 - Calendar: John Florian heads up the production and sales of the LIA Annual Calendar. The calendar is currently being sold at various businesses and community activities. The Board expressed appreciation to John and his team of photographers/artists for this year's exceptional calendar.
 - 10/7/26 at St. Joseph's Hall public meeting coverage: Ken Sorrentino will coordinate lawn signs, website, and social media postings for the meeting. An additional sandwich board was discussed, which would be placed on the Bluffs' lawn.
- Burgess: There are no events scheduled for the Bluffs. A full refund (event fee and security deposit) will be returned to the sponsor of the September 26, 2026 wedding, which was not held on the Bluff's lawn due to weather.
- Beautification: The Beautification Committee will be encouraged to thin out LIA gardens to reduce purchases of annuals and perennials.

- Education & Environment:
 - Christine Griffin informed the Board that while she will continue working on the Earth Day Cleanup and pollinator garden, she is stepping down from heading the Education & Environment Committee. The Board expressed their gratitude for Christine's expertise and hard work over the years.
 - The Board discussed the importance of holding at least four educational programs per year.
 - Suggestions were made regarding neighbors who may be willing to fulfill this position.
 - Daffodil street pole project: Ken will ask Beautification Committee status of daffodil bulb distribution and Jane will look into costs at van Engelson Company.
- Treasurer:
 - Donations are down from last year. In order to maintain standard responsibilities (mowing, trail maintenance, invasive vegetation removal, insurance, gardens, etc), efforts will be made to call for expanded memberships and donations, including a second "appeal" mailing, announcements at meetings, and posts on LIA web and Facebook. The Board will explore local, state, and federal funding to maintain the coastal beauty and natural resource of the Bluffs and Russian Beach.

3. Old Business

- Insurance Review: Current insurance policy reviewed.
- Invasive Knotweed Removal: Discussion took place regarding monitoring the efficacy of current treatment as well as exploring alternative treatment to mitigate so this plant does not choke existing native vegetation, which would harm habitat.
- Dune Fencing Repairs: Due to aging and wood used for bon fires, additional dune fencing is needed to mitigate erosion. Jim Warren got prices from Tractor Supply \$75 per 50' roll coming in at the best price. Cost of 200 feet = 4 rolls (\$300) +10 posts @\$7 (70) +\$30 wire roll to repair damaged/burned fencing \$300+\$70+30=\$400. To extend dune fencing to Spruce Street, 250 feet =5 rolls (\$375) +50 posts (350) + wire (2x\$30). \$375+ \$350+60=\$785.

- 250th Anniversary Tree Planting: Jane, Sue, Emily, and Karen to lead effort to coordinate with Town officials for commemorative trees to be planted across Lordship in recognition of the town's 250th anniversary. Group to work with Lordship School on coordinating student involvement in selection, placement, and planting of trees.
- Attorney selection: Dave Brant, Executive Director of Aspetuck, recommended several experts and professionals to assist the LIA.
- CLCC Satellite monitoring grant: Aspetuck's David Brant and Justin Giorlando, a civil engineer, toured Russian Beach in early September. Justin sent us historical photographs and agreed to add our property to his Lens searches. Aspetuck's CLCC grant for Lens licenses expected in January x 3 years.
- Next Year Goal-work towards Land Trust Alliance Certification—informative Standards and Practices for Land Trusts online for responsible operation of land trusts.

4. New Business:

- 10/7 LIA Public Committee Meeting: Discussion took place concerning meeting planning to ensure an organized, respectful event to share information and listen to neighbors' suggestions and concerns.
- New Committees Creation: 2 new committees that were discussed at July annual meeting were set up with members and a charge: Event Committee and Beach Committee. There were insufficient volunteers for Advocacy Committee, Hospitality Committee to welcome those new to Lordship, and Membership Committee. To be formally set up this winter: Board Emeritus Advisory Committee comprised of former board members to provide historic guidance and advice.
- College/University research was discussed to follow bluff/dune heights going forward as well as working with State Representative Joe Gresko on state data and resources.
- The Board will request the Beach Committee to consider using Christmas trees and logs on the beach to support dune fencing in hopes of reducing beach erosion.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.