

**Lordship Improvement Association
Committees/Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes November 18, 2024**

Attendees: Hans Drenkard , John Florian , Emily Viner, Jim Warren. Susan Birge, Jane Scofield, Christine Griffin, 30 neighbors

Called to Order 7:01

Meeting Minutes approved

Treasurer's report

Previous balance	\$ 9,326.98
<u>Revenue</u>	
Households (234)	\$21,955.50
Event fee	\$ 500.00
Calendar Ads & Sales	\$ 2,221.90
Swag sales	\$ 31.00
Anonymous Donation for Guardrail Extension	\$ 5,000.00
	\$29,708.40
Total revenue	\$39,035.38
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Bluffs (Knotweed Mitigation Treatment)	\$ 575.00
Bluffs (Mowing & Path Maintenance)	\$ 3,160.00
Bluffs (Brush & Small Tree Management)	\$16,236.00
Bluffs (Guardrail Materials)	\$ 6,920.00
Bluffs (Snow Fencing)	\$ 1,530.70
Rose Garden	\$ 120.25
Crown Street Garden	\$ 18.00
Wayne's Walk Garden	\$ 49.23
Aquarion Water Company	\$ 73.07
100 th Celebration Food & Yard signs	\$ 253.98
Copies for Annual Meeting & Land Records	\$ 126.48
Insurance for Board of Governors	\$ 698.00
Stratford Volunteer Fire Department Ad	\$ 180.00
Calendar Expenses	\$ 2,376.86
Post Office Box Annual Fee	\$ 302.00
Disbursements	<u>\$ 32,619.57</u>
Balance	\$ 6,415.81

Burgess Report

- Roxanne Amiot requested information for a wedding on The Bluffs in 2025 for her son and his fiancé.

Communication report

- **LIA 2025 'LORDSHIP IN BLOOM' CALENDAR**

Calendar sales and advertising revenue at this point have exceeded expenses, and we look forward to another good income year. The calendar is available for sale at the Lordship Corner Market, Dal Mare Pizzeria, Breezy Point Auto Repairs, and the Mellow Monkey – which also offers the calendar online. And these stores all do this for the LIA as a service, at no charge to us.

- **COMMUNICATING TO LORDSHIP**

We share news and information about LIA to the Lordship community via the LIA website (LordshipCT.org), which this year to date has experienced more than 5,500 site sessions. Also, we make social media announcements about news and website articles on the LIA's Facebook group page

(392 members), the LIA NEWS blog (180 subscribers), and the Lordship community segment of NextDoor.com.

Environment and Education Report

- Saturday's clean-up effort was very successful! Volunteer support was extensive and is much appreciated
- Eagle Scout candidate, Charlie Welch led youth and adults to install 600' of Drift Fencing (supplied by the LIA) to help build the dunes at Russian Beach. He would like to present the project results at a future meeting.

Beautification Report

- Several volunteers planted 400 daffodil bulbs in two kidney bean shaped patches on the bluffs. These will be most beautiful next spring. Thank you to all who helped
- Stratford has replaced many trees in Lordship. Neighbors are asked to help with watering, particularly in drought times

Committee Report Wrap up – LIA will be joining up with the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) which will be a resource for our future conservation efforts.

Old Business

Protecting the bluffs and keeping it safe.

The Bluffs is approximately 9 acres of protected land along Park Blvd, This natural habitat is held in Trust for the passive enjoyment of Lordship residents. The Lordship Improvement Association serves as trustees charged with “protecting this land for its natural, recreational, and scenic value.”

- In the 1970s, a pole rail fence was placed along Park Blvd to prevent motor vehicles from driving on the bluffs.
- In 2007, the pole fence was upgraded to a rail fence with signs indicating motorized vehicles were not allowed.
- In 2021 Golf carts were approved for use on Stratford roads with speed limits of 25mph and less.
- At the 2023 LIA meeting, members voiced objection to the parking of golf carts on the bluffs. At that time, it was hoped that the novelty would wear off and golf carts on the bluffs would not be an issue.
- Through 2023-24, increased cart driving/parking on the Bluffs prompted increased calls ,emails and donation card notes calling on the LIA to enforce the motorized vehicle prohibition.
- They noted that Long and Short Beach offer 2.5 miles of motorized vehicle accessible beach, while the Bluffs represent only 0.25 miles of conservation area prohibiting motorized vehicle access.
- They also emphasized that the BoG bears liability for a golf cart accident if further action is not taken to prevent motorized vehicle access. A review of our insurance policy confirmed that insurance is for “Land parcel with pedestrian access to beach.” The insurance company requested photos of signs at renewal .
- During the summer, a “Can Am” vehicle was driven on the bluffs, leaving deep ruts .
- At the 2024 annual meeting, the board proposed extending the rail fence from the existing ends to the bluff edge to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing the potentially dangerous area. There was no objection to the proposed plan and its \$5000 estimate

- Two weeks after the meeting, LIA received an anonymous donation of \$5000 “ **for the improvement, maintenance and upkeep of the fence and any other boundary protection established for the Bluffs and/or for any other uses serving to preserve, restore or protect the Bluffs**” .
- BoG has contracted with M&M fencing to install extensions of rail fence to Bluffs east and west boundaries.
- A number of attendees made statements advocating allowing golf carts to drive on the bluffs, or, as a compromise designate a golf cart parking area along Park Boulevard
- Some commenters also said they are not adequately informed about upcoming LIA meetings and actions taken at the meetings, and requested notices about upcoming meetings include items on the agenda.

Adjourn Committee Meeting 8 :45 PM