

**Lordship Improvement Association
Committee/Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes January 24, 2024**

Attendees: Hans Drenkard, John Florian (call in) Karen Kochiss Jane Scofield, Emily Viner, Jim Warren

Meeting called to order 6:30

Minutes emailed from prior meeting were accepted.

Treasurers Report – Susan Birge

Balance \$17,268.57

Revenue

Memberships (256), Calendar Ads (\$775) & Sales (\$2,080), T-shirts (\$30). \$ 5,952.58

Disbursements

Insurance \$ 1,013.20

Aquarion Water \$ 26.18

Fall mums (Kochiss) \$ 180.00

Ackley Garden (Lautier) \$ 54.10

Calendar expenses \$ 7.99

Total Disbursements \$ 1,281.47

Balance \$21,939.68

Treasurer's report approved.

Burgess – Jane Scofield (report emailed to BoG before meeting)

- One viable for 2025 RYANNE, needs to become a member
-

Beautification Committee- Karen Kochiss

- Stop sign daffodils have been planted along Stratford Ave stop signs. Bulbs were provided by Town and those dug up by Charlie Lautier
- Joe Gresko had a sugar maple planted on Lordship Road.

Old Business (Beach Drive property)

Jane provide property history related to Beach Drive cottages

- Lordship Park Association owned majority of lots
- August 1981 Lordship Parks Assn transferred lots to Condo Assn
- Since then owners have issued quit claim deeds to the Condo association. All of these refer to the 1947 agreement
- Five properties have reverted due to storm damage.
- The current one, 29 S Shoreline Drive, is reverting due to abandonment and being sought by town of Stratford.

Jim spoke with Kevin Kelly about this. We cannot hire any attorney associated with the town. He said we need an attorney. He recommended a Branford attorney, Robert Frost, for a consultation. Kevin said tax liability would not apply to us. Jane/Jim will contact Robert Frost.

Interesting point: cottage owners, particularly those north of Beach and Shoreline Drive, might favor the 1947 agreement as it would slowly give them more water views and beach space.

Old business

Matt Ralabate, Larry Haddad and Bryan O’Conner joined the meeting to discuss planning 100th Anniversary Celebration. The LIA celebration will be June 23rd with cookout 4-6 PM followed by Bands on the Bluffs playing until sunset.

- LIA will pay the band fee estimated \$400-\$800
- Preferred band is LeeAnne Lovelace and Friends Second choice is Keltic Kick. Lerry will coordinate schedule.
- Rain date will be the next Bands on the Bluffs date to be determined by LFC.
- Roadblocks will be arranged for safe traffic
- Esplanade parking permits need to be secured.
- Larry and Matt estimated 125 people show up at Bands on Bluffs
- LFC has half barrel grill we can use.
- Matt suggested organizing children’s game will help keep families attending. LFc has some implements. We could bring corn hole sets

Communications – John Florian

2024 CALENDAR

Calendar Sales: \$2,860

Advertising Sales: \$775

Gross Profit: \$3,635

Expenses: \$1,983

Net Profit: \$1,652

- Shutterfly cancelled quantity discount, so only 150 calendars were purchased/sold.
- Sales agents reported requests for more.
- Still available as single purchase from Shutterfly, through me, and about 10 have purchased this way. \$28/copy. No add-on profit for LIA, but one person said she’d make an LIA online donation.

2025 CALENDAR

Theme: Calendar committee meets via Zoom in early February to pick theme. Options discussed earlier:

- Lordship Gardens
- Lordship by the Sea

Want a “Look at this!” theme and cover to capture attention at Art in the Park event and Mellow Monkey. Must be distinctly Lordship.

Printer: We require quantity discount and ads in date blocks. Discussing with these options:

- Landmark Print, Stamford. Prints annual calendar for Kennedy Collective (1,000), says can do 200, including ads in date blocks. Price to come.
- PrintSafari.com. Price comparable to Shutterfly discount (as of now). But don’t think they allow ads. Will continue discussion. Worry about sudden price change.

100TH ANNIVERSARY ONLINE

Articles for website and social media:

- Announced June 23 “Celebrate Lordship Party” date.
- History (quirky, fun, generates talk) from Tom Halverson and John Novak
- Series: Lordship Memories. Contributions from Lordship residents (present and past).

Environment and Education –

Several projects were recommended:

- late spring “nature trail” wood chip dispersal,
- some language that prohibits independent tree felling without the approval of LIA, Pat Blossom provided photos of trees cut at Spruce Street trail. They appear to be on Non LIA property.
- create rain gardens below culverts- to mitigate the erosion from the volume of water,
- possibly repair/ replace the snow fences that have been damaged and
- reintroduce butterfly weed to the bluffs.

We will continue to seed start little bluestem for planting on the bluffs ridgeline.

New Business

Tom Halverson website domain name was bought by someone (lordshiphistory.com). Would we be interested in taking over the website. We need to find people interested in maintaining the lordship and form a committee that will maintain website on Lordship History. John will put a tech consultant in touch with Tom Halverson.

Next meeting Wednesday Feb 21

Meeting adjourned 8:10