

Town of Isle LaMotte Recreation Department
Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2024
Zoom Only

NOTE: Meeting overview was provided through the meeting's Zoom Summary Report updated to amend details to conversations.

Attendees: Anne Jobin Picard, Ruth Casey, Mike Simanskas, Kathy Simanskas, Andrea Carbone

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by co-chair Anne Jobin-Picard.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with a discussion of the absence of meeting minutes from the previous meetings. Andrea had previously agreed to take meeting minutes in Carmine Cenrella's absence, and is behind on completing the minutes for December, which will be completed as soon as possible for approval at the next meeting. The meeting minutes from November were approved as posted to the website.

Financial Review and Annual Report

Ruth provided a financial report, noting no income or expenses, and the balance remained at approximately \$9,000. Andrea advised Anne and Ruth that the Selectboard is meeting next week to discuss the budget, and they will be updated on Monday if their attendance at the meeting is necessary. The team also reviewed the annual report for 2024.

Recreation Department Structure and Playground Inspection

In the meeting, Michael expressed the need to establish a clear understanding of the members of the Recreation Department to ensure proper decision-making. Anne suggested discussing this at the next meeting, possibly involving a call-out for more members. Michael also highlighted the need for a secretary to handle meeting minutes for the Recreation Department, which is an official town department. The team agreed to organize a training session on using Google Drive to better manage documents and communications. They also discussed the need for a playground inspection in the spring of 2027 and the possibility of hiring a company to ensure proper maintenance. The team decided to wait for the Selectboard's response to their questions before making further decisions on maintenance.

AARP Grant Application for Walking Path

The group discussed applying for an AARP grant to fund a walking path and exercise stations in their community. Andrea suggests scaling back the request to just the walking path for a better chance of approval. Anne agrees starting with the path is a good idea. Michael supports pursuing the path first before adding stations later. Anne will research grant writing resources to strengthen their application.

Paint + Steep and Future Event Planning

Anne discussed the upcoming Paint + Steep event, which she will attend and help set up. She mentioned that she will pick up free paper goods and light refreshments for the event. Ruth encouraged Anne to submit an expense report for the light refreshments needed for the event.

Anne also discussed the possibility of a lighthouse Q&A in March, a tour may be possible in the summer but would require coordination. She confirmed that a Lake Champlain Basin program will visit in April to discuss biospheres and the condition of the lake.

Wiffle Ball and Community Events

Anne proposed the idea of a weekly drop-in wiffle ball event at the park, open to all ages, and suggested a monthly "free pop-up" where people could bring items they no longer need to give away to the community. Michael agreed to these ideas and suggested they could be implemented in July or August. Anne also mentioned the possibility of a music night for the Recreation Department, which Kathy's brother had previously agreed to possibly perform. Kathy offered to organize a "bring a vase and make your own bouquet" event in July or August. The team agreed to further discuss these ideas in future meetings.

Additional Grants Discussion

The PACIF grant can be applied for again this year to offset the cost of mulch purchases, and Ruth mentioned that the IPA's tree planting grant application should be heard back in February. The team agreed to be mindful of the path map if the tree planting grant is approved.

Adjusting Meeting Schedule and Frequency

The team discussed their meeting schedule, particularly the recurring Saturday meetings. Kathy suggested adjusting the schedule to avoid back-to-back meetings with ILMCO and Recreation Departments. The team agreed to keep the current schedule for now and reassess in the spring when more members are involved. They also decided to continue with the second Saturday of every month for meetings, and Kathy will review the schedule with ILMCO.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48.

Action Steps

- Andrea to set up a webinar on how to use Google Drive for Recreation Department and ILMCO members in February.
- Andrea to reach out to Vermont AARP for feedback on grant application.
- Andrea to revise AARP grant application to focus only on the walking path project.
- Anne to bring light refreshments and set up for the Paint and Sip event.
- Anne to look into resources for grant writing tips and share with Andrea.
- Kathy to discuss with Sylvia about potentially changing ILMCO meeting dates to avoid back-to-back meetings with the Recreation Department.
- Recreation Committee to discuss and plan summer activities, including wiffle ball and free pop-up events.
- Anne will submit a reimbursement request for expenses for Paint + Steep event refreshments.
- Recreation Department to plan a call out for new members in the spring.