

Town of Isle LaMotte Recreation Department
Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2025

Zoom Only Attendees: Anne Jobin-Picard, Ruth Casey, Mike Simanskas, Kathy Simanskas, Carmine Centrella, Mary Brennan-Centrella, Andrea Carbone, Karin Ericson, Nancy Dulude

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM

Approve meeting minutes from April 2025

Motion, Ruth C. 2nd Michael S.

Approved

Financial Report

Ruth C. reported that the balance for the Recreation Department is approximately \$9,500; awaiting financial spreadsheet from ILM Treasurer.

Project Review

Mulch

Mulch for the Town Hall play set needs to be spread. Originally scheduled for May 10, 2025, but due to rains over the previous week it was decided to move this activity to Thursday May 15th 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Andrea C. will post to Facebook for volunteers.

T-Ball at Veterans Park

Michael S. is due to meet with Dylan Degree from YOGI LL today (Saturday May 10th) to assess field and overall status.

Veterans Park Swing Set

Andrea C. reported that per the ILM Selectboard, the Town is not in a position to move forward with funding for this project. The cost for excavation and preparation of the ground is estimated to be approximately \$10,000. Concern was expressed by Rec Dept that this is a safety matter as reported in the insurance report. Discussion regarding planning for next year to ensure this project is included in the Town's appropriation budget and possibly splitting the cost with the budget appropriation and Rec Dept funds.

Adaptive Swing

Andrea C. will work on a grant application for a \$1,000 grant from the VT Electric Community Development Grant to offset the costs of acquiring an accessible/adaptive swing for swing sets.

Newsletter

Ruth C. continues to work on the newsletter. She will work with Anne J-P on the finalizing of Rec Dept activity dates to be included in the newsletter.

Recreation Department Equipment Wish List

Rec Dept members were asked to forward equipment requests for the Rec Dept to Andrea C. She will compile a list for review and purchasing.

Recreation Department Equipment Locker

Discussion regarding options for securing Rec Dept equipment for public use at the Veterans Park. Previous Rubbermaid® products have proven to be susceptible to vandalism. Members discussed a larger more fortified structure along the lines of a small shed, but concerns remain about how best to secure the shed but still make equipment easily available. Ruth C. and Michael S. commented that beyond providing the basics like nets and larger items, that the public should be expected to bring whatever equipment needed with them. No action taken – to be discussed further.

Park Regulations Signage

Andrea C. is working on having the signs posted.

Recreation Department Activities

Tree Give-Away/Earth Day

Andrea C. reported that all sixty-five tree plants were distributed to approximately forty participants.

Perennial Swap

The Perennial Swap is scheduled for Sunday May 18th 1PM to 2PM. Depending on overall success of a perennial swap the Rec Dept will investigate a “Household Swap” in the future.

Cornhole – Veterans Park

Discussion regarding status of moving forward with the Rec Dept acquiring cornhole boards for public use at the Veterans Park. Concerned expressed regarding the appr. \$1,900 cost of more substantial granite cornhole boards vs. more traditional boards. A concern remains regarding vandalism and theft of standard boards and the ability to stand up to the weather. Budget impact and the need to address safety items are priorities. No action taken.

Wiffle Ball

Michael S. will put out feelers to gauge public interest in having pick-up wiffle ball games/tournaments.

Aging Well

No action – Anne J-P will follow up with date and event logistics.

Collaboration – Island Arts

The Rec Dept is collaborating with Island Arts to bring an arts & culture event to Isle LaMotte.

ILM Lighthouse Tour

Rob Clark is interested in providing a tour of the ILM lighthouse. No date has been set.

iPhone Photography Class

Working on a date for another photography class for iPhone users on July 17, 2025, 5:30PM to 7:00PM starting the Town Hall community room. Anne J-P will be facilitating and Andrea C. work on event posters.

Book Group

Karen E. reported on a book group event co-facilitated by the Rec Dept.

The event is being facilitated by Karin E. and Anne J-P and will in the Town Hall community room on May 25, 2025, at 4PM. A pre-selected book will be distributed (10 books available) and the group would then meet on June 22nd at 4PM to discuss the book. Andrea C. will follow up with securing the community room for the two dates.

Missisquoi Friends & Lake Champlain Basin Program

Anne J-P is working on logistics for these two events.

Sons of the American Revolution

Andrew Whipple would like to have the Rec Dept co-sponsor a history event in September.

AARP Grant

Andrea C. reports that we expect to hear this week regarding a grant award from the AARP for a walking path at Veterans Park.

New Business

Laura M. reported on an Isle LaMotte Conservation Block Party event sponsored by the South Hero Land Trust, May 14, 2025, 5PM to 6:30PM at the Goodsell Ridge Preserve. Tickets can be obtained at <https://www.shlt.org/events>.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:46AM

Motion Karen E. 2nd Michael S.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmine Centrella, Secretary
Isle LaMotte Recreation Department