

Town of Isle LaMotte Recreation Department Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2025

Zoom Only Attendees: Anne Jobin-Picard, Ruth Casey, Mike Simanskas, Kathy Simanskas, Carmine Centrella, Mary Brennan-Centrella, Laura Miraldi, Andrea Carbone. Guests: Andrew Whipple

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM

Additions to Agenda: Ruth commented on the recent painting of an extra pickleball court at the Veterans Park parking lot by the Islands Pickleball Association. Ruth expressed a desire for the ILM Rec Dept. to pay for rope(s) to rope off the court to keep snowmobiles off the court during the winter.

Approve meeting minutes from August 2025

Motion, Ruth C. 2nd Carmine C.

Approved

Financial Report

Ruth C. reported a balance of \$7,877.47 as of Oct. 1st, 2025.

Brief discussion regarding the timing of when the Rec Dept receives its funding for the year. The funds for 2025 do not show up until the end of the calendar year and the expected balance at the end of the year will be approximately \$12,152.00.

Rec Dept. Emails

Ruth C. requested that the Rec Committee members use her Islelamotte.gov address for Rec Dept business and not her Gmail account to make it easier for her to track her emails.

Isle LaMotte Selectboard Approvals

The ILM Selectboard, at its last meeting, approved the Rec Dept's recommendation to remove the swings and the metal slide from the Veterans Park until the area could be properly upgraded with mulch. Discussion held regarding the need to spend \$10,000.00 to upgrade the swing set area at the park when there is a set of swings and playscape at the Town offices. At the Selectboard meeting there was a discussion about making the removal permanent. Laura M. suggested before the Rec Dept makes that final recommendation, we should try to obtain community feedback. Carmine C. will follow up by putting together a survey for distribution through FPF, Facebook, and the Town's website.

Veterans Park Upkeep

Discussion held regarding general upkeep of the park. Ruth C. commented on the need to rethink whether the Rec Dept. should continue to supply balls at the park for public use. Multiple times she has had to go around the Park picking up the balls and placing them back in the ball bag. A

suggestion was made to use an open bin to store balls making it as easy as possible for the ball return with the thought that next season may be the last for supplying balls if the issues continue.

Mike and Kathy S. Saw a person who had let their dog roam in the park off leash and then not picking up dog waste. The suggestion was made that at the beginning of next season the Rec Dept should make an effort to publish some rules as good neighbors in Park upkeep.

Recreation Department Activities

Thera-Pets Donkey Visit

Anne JP reports the event was successful for community engagement with lots of linen and clothes donations to Thera-Pets. The event brought out young and old, and all enjoyed the animals and ice cream social.

Ideas for donation jars discussed with the thought that vendors who are supplying a free event should receive the proceeds from any fundraising activity/donation jar go unless otherwise agreed to a split with the Rec Dept. The Rec Dept will continue to have a donation jar for the Rec Dept at events where appropriate.

Collaboration – Island Arts

The Rec Dept will host the Pluckers November 8, 2025, at 1PM. This event will be held at the ILM United Methodist Church on Church St. Further discussion was held regarding a donation from the Rec Dept to the UM Church for the use of the church for Rec Dept events until the Town's Community Room is available.

Motion: Carmine C. made a motion that the Rec Dept donate \$50.00 per event to the United Methodist Church. 2nd: Ruth C.

Approved

Missisquoi Friends Event

Anne JP reports six people attended the Missisquoi event and that interest has been generated with Missisquoi Friends for future events.

Trunk & Treat

Taking place today

Paint & Steep

Anne JP will continue to coordinate another Paint & Steep event for some time in January/February of 2026.

Senior Savy Fair & Ice Cream Social

Anne JP reports she has ice cream left over from the Thera-Pets event and that Stewarts Shops is donating coffee for the event. The fair is scheduled for October 19, 2025, from 1PM to 3PM at the ILM United Methodist Church. Andrea C. will ensure Stewart's receives a thank you note for coffee donation. Volunteers need to assist with event. Andrea C. will send a notice for volunteers to Front Porch Forum and community Facebook page(s).

Recreation Department Volunteers

Discussion was held regarding the need for more volunteers to assist at Rec Dept events.

Carmine C. will add a question to the Rec Dept survey to see if more interest can be generated.

Book Club

Anne JP reports the sessions continue to go well.

Winter Game Night

The Rec Dept is looking at a date after the holidays for a winter game night.

Island Railroads

Carmine C and Mary BC will follow up with their contact from LCATV regarding a presentation on the history of railroads in Grand Isle County. This would take place sometime next spring/summer.

VINS Outreach

Tabled

Bone Builders

Anne JP has received Bone Builders training.

Action Items

Bike Repair Station

Discussion was held regarding the potential to put a Bike Repair Station in the Veterans Park. ILM sees many bikers during the warmer seasons, and it would be a nice addition to the park. Anne JP suggested that committee members go to the Empire Trail Head in Rouses Point, NY to get a better idea of set-up.

St. Anne's Shrine

Anne JP reports she has communicated with Shrine personnel about the use of St. Anne's for event space and potentially assisting volunteers with Green Up Day, especially along Shrine Rd. There was no consensus reached about event space at the Shrine, but they did seem receptive to assisting with the island Green Up Day. Anne JP has forwarded this to Alex Montagne for her follow-up.

Winter Place Making Grant - AARP

Andrea C reports that the Rec Dept would need to start making plans now for next year's grant.

Anne JP asked if there might be any interest in collaborating with ILMCO on a project like this.

Michael and Kathy S will be the liaisons for follow up with ILMCO.

This will be an item for future agendas.

Building Community Grant

Andrea C reports this must be a shovel ready project. Looking at next year.

Cornhole & Ping Pong

Moved to budget discussion.

NOTE: Anne JP had to leave the meeting at 8:55AM

Recreation Department 2026 Budget

Discussion was held to finalize the ILM Recreation Department budget request for 2026.

Items of note:

- The Rec Department's activities have grown from five events in 2023 to fourteen events in 2025. Highlighting the need for more coordination and that the Rec Dept volunteers are beginning to be overwhelmed with coordination and follow up actions. It was suggested that using Town staff or a dedicated volunteer to assist with these efforts may be beneficial to the success of events going forward. It is estimated that two hours per week would be sufficient to assist the Rec Dept.
- Budget may need to reflect regular maintenance/upkeep issues shared with the Town. There still needs to be a determination of budget responsibility for what between the Town and the Rec Dept. Carmine C. will generate a list of potential items for maintenance and upkeep.
- Discussion held regarding removing the horseshoe pits at Veterans Park and replacing them with cornhole boards given the non-use of the pits and the growing popularity of cornhole.

Motion: Carmine C. moved to have the horseshoe pits removed and at least two sets of cornhole boards be added to the park, 2nd Ruth C

Approved

Ruth C will finalize the budget request with updated numbers in time for the October 15th budget meeting.

New Business

Anrew Whipple was invited to address the Recreation Committee regarding the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. He suggested that the ILM Rec Dept may want to collaborate with the Town's 250th committee going forward. Further discussion was held to gauge the interest of the Rec Dept partnering with other community organizations for events such as the cemetery clean-up day(s). A donation to the cemetery will be discussed at a future meeting.

No specific action taken and Andrew W. will continue to attend Rec Dept meetings where appropriate for future 250th planning.

Meeting Adjournment 9:55AM

Motion Carmine C. 2nd Ruth C.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmine Centrella, Secretary
Isle LaMotte Recreation Department

MEETING DATE	ACTION/STATUS	
	<i>topic</i>	<i>current status</i>
10/4/2025	2026 Budget	Items to track for inclusion in the next budget: - funding for insurance required renovation of swing set at Veterans Park - cornhole set. - equipment locker for park - Ball field upgrades Ruth C will finalize 2026 budget request
10/4/2025	Veterans Park Swing Set	Carmine C will develop survey for ILM residents regarding public desires for the park
10/4/2025	Paint & Steep	Anne JP will follow up on a date after the holidays
10/4/2025	Island Railroads	Carmine & Mary C will follow up on presentation for 2026 on the history of the railroads in the Islands
10/4/2025	Winter Place Making Grant	Mike & Kathy S will liaison with ILMCO for collaboration on project.