

Town of Isle LaMotte Recreation Department
Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2026

Zoom Only Attendees: Anne Jobin-Picard, Ruth Casey, Mike Simanskas, Kathy Simanskas, Nancy Dulude, Laura Miraldi, (Carmine Centrella and Mary Brennan-Centrella joined the meeting at 8:45), Missy Forey

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM

Approve meeting minutes from February 21, 2026

Motion, Ruth C. 2nd Michael S.

Approved

Administrative

Financial Report

Ruth C. reported the Rec Dept had a donation from the Paint & Steep event of \$71 with no bills. The Rec Dept retains a balance of \$14,092.49. With the passage of the 2026 ILM budget the Recreation Department expects to receive the \$4,000 appropriation sometime in the future.

Isle LaMotte Selectboard

The documents regarding the Veterans Park and Town Hall playscape were supposed to be submitted to the ILM Selectboard by Carmine C. After Meeting Note: After checking his email Carmine does not see the email in his sent folder and will resend.

Adaptive Swing

The swing has been ordered. The Rec Dept will be notified of delivery date for installation date.

Grant Assistance & Grants

Carmine C reported on communications with one potential person whose name was given to the Rec Dept that the person really is not interested and would have trouble with meetings due to off island residency. Discussion regarding needing to make a decision fairly soon with Andrea C's input about moving forward with grant assistance. Further discussion regarding how others manage grants and especially Island Arts. Carmine C responded that the grants Island Arts sought have been complex federal funding stream grants and it is almost a full-time job for the volunteer who manages the Island Arts grants. Carmine C will follow up with Lynn Coales regarding his expressed interest.

Northern Border Regional Commission

Discussed later in meeting under Grants. Carmine C will follow up with Andrea C for more information.

VT Recreational Trails Program- 2026

Applications may have closed. Rec Dept will investigate 2027 potential grant. Carmine C will follow up with Andrea C.

Fundraising Subcommittee

No action taken.

Recreation Department Future Planning

No action taken. Recreation Department Planning Discussion tabled.

Philanthropy and Fundraising

Discussion regarding reach out for philanthropic efforts to benefit the Rec Dept and wanting Selectboard review and impacts with other Isle Lamotte organizations seeking funding opportunities. Consensus to wait until 2027 so as not to interfere with ILM 250 and ILMCO fundraising activities.

Recreation Department Projects

Veterans Park Pavillion

Michael S. reported on his activities sharing drawings with a structural engineer and Sylvia Jensen continues to follow up with contacting contractors for estimates to build the pavilion.

Walking Path – Veterans Park

Tabled

Cornhole

Lengthy discussion regarding options for acquiring two sets of cornhole boards. The concern is spending a premium for heavier boards to deter theft and vandalism when there are options for less expensive boards at least to start a club or spark interest in the community. Michael S will investigate further and present a couple of options in hopes of acquiring cornhole boards for this summer.

Ball Fields

Michael S has followed up with Dillon from the Youth Organization of Grand Isle LL. The field is in good condition but will need to have infield sod removed and infield dirt brought in; estimated cost is \$1,800. Also, a pitcher's mound will need to be added to the field whether dirt or a portable mound; estimated cost \$1,300 for a portable mound. One concern is spending the time, effort and funding for a field that is not used. Practices are most likely to be held in the other Champlain Island communities, but games, especially weekend games would work. Options for storage of equipment also discussed. Michael S. will continue planning with Dillon, and Anne JP will investigate shed options.

Recreation Department Activities

Easter Egg Hunt

Andrea Carbone has been coordinating with Alburgh to hold a joint community, Easter Egg Hunt. Volunteers are still needed.

Plant Swap

Set for May 17, 2026, 1pm to 2 pm rain or shine at Veterans Park. Volunteers needed to assist with event.

Calendar of Events

Shared drive population and access. No action taken.

Book Club

Anne JP reports that the sessions continue to go well with six to nine participants. Karin Erickson has been coordinating. Next session on April 22nd.

Paint and Steep

There were fifteen registrations with thirteen in attendance. Seventy-one dollars was raised for the Rec Dept through donations.

Meet the Author - Poetry Reading

Set for March 21, 2026, 1pm to 3pm at Alburgh Library. Five interested people have signed up through the Rec Dept.

Appalachian Flatfooting/Clogging Workshop

Collaboration with Island Arts to bring the event to Isle LaMotte. May 31, 2026, 2pm to 3:30pm at the ILM Methodist Church.

June Drop-In Talent Event

Collaborate with Goodsell Preserve for a Drop-in Talent Event in June. Anne JP will be attending a ukulele workshop in South Hero to see if that might be a fit on Isle LaMotte.

Bike Tune-Up

Suggested by Mary Catherine Graziano to bring in a bike repair person to tune up/repair bikes on the island. Discussion regarding fee of \$450 for the event. Michael S will investigate other options to include a bike repair/tune-up workshop to include bicycle safety class and follow up with Mary Catherine Graziano. Discussion regarding collaborating with one or more of the bike groups that tour Isle LaMotte for participation and possible funding assistance.

Mark Shelton Music Event

Event ok for September.

Bone Builders

Missy Forey is being trained in Bone Builders classes with next class set.

Crafters Drop-in

Tabled

250th Celebration

Anne JP reported on the sign-ups for the "250-mile challenge" with participants self-tracking walking, swimming, biking, and driving, etc. activities to reach 250 miles. Rec Dept needs to publicize the event more and consider giveaways such as safety vests, etc.

Rec Dept July Event

Anne JP discussed holding an event in July focusing on welcoming back our Canadian neighbors and visitors.

Walking Path Town Offices

Discussion regarding how and when to meet is best to conduct walk along the walking path at the Town Offices. Purpose is to determine overall condition of the path and any needed upkeep.

Action Items

See included list.

Meeting Adjourned 9:23 AM
 Anne JP motion, 2nd Michael S.

Respectfully submitted,
 Carmine Centrella, Secretary
 Isle LaMotte Recreation Department

MEETING DATE	ACTION/STATUS	
	<i>topic</i>	<i>current status</i>
11-8-2025 2-21-2026	2026 Budget	Carmine C. & Michael S. will work together on a strategy for the best approach to the ILM Selectboard regarding shared responsibilities and costs. Carmine C. will forward documents to Donna B. and request Selectboard agenda space. No action taken for March meeting.
11-8-2025	Email assistance	Andrea C. will work on granting Carmine C. access to monitor Rec Dept emails. Yet to be done.
10/4/2025	Veterans Park opportunities	Carmine C will develop survey for ILM residents regarding public desires for the park. Yet to be done.
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 12-13-2025 3-14-2026	Winter Place Making Grant	Mike & Kathy S will liaison with ILMCO for collaboration on project. Nothing to add. Rec Dept needs to decide on how best to move forward with grant application planning, CJC will post for assistance on FPF and Face Book. Carmine C to investigate further
12-13-2025	Town Hall Walking Path	Anne JP will reach out to local Scouts to see if there is an interest in an Adopt a Trail approach to cleanup and maintenance of the walking path behind the Town Hall. No response
12-13-2025	Movie Night – Film License	Anne JP will follow up with initiative for the fall
2-21-2026	Wiffle ball	Michael S. will continue to research needs and schedule
2-21-2026	Veterans Park Swing Set	Michael S. will follow up with Peter B. for Selectboard approval to have the swing set and slide removed from Veterans Park.