

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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Lamoine, Hancock, Ellsworth Leave RSU 24 Consultant to Assist Town, School Committee

Now the hard work begins!

(Lamoine) - In the end, it wasn't even close in Lamoine and plenty of folks turned out to cast ballots, completing the withdrawal from Regional School Unit 24. The final count: Yes (favoring the withdrawal plan) 399 No (opposing the plan) 187. Voters in Hancock and Ellsworth approved their withdrawal plans by an even wider margin.

The initial concern among many withdrawal supporters was that not enough voters would turn out for the vote to be considered valid. State law required 451 voters to cast ballots based on the number of ballots cast in the November 2010 gubernatorial election. For about a month, supporters waged a concerted campaign to encourage both turnout and passage.

Some of the campaign was transmitted via private e-mail, apparently gleaned from public e-mail addresses from various town officials. While Selectmen listened sympathetically to people whose e-mail boxes received campaign communications, they assured the recipients that the messages were not generated by the town office. As several supporters served on town committees, the e-mail addresses of town officials were

available because of other e-mail sent by the town office.

Now that the withdrawal is in place, Lamoine has about 6-months to form its new school department. The first step will be to elect a school committee. State law sets the school committee size at three but gives town voters an option to enlarge the committee if they wish. Prior to consolidation, the town had a 5-member school board, and the Board of Selectmen has proposed that the ordinance regarding board size be amended to increase the school board to five.

The initial school committee election is set for January 7, 2014 from 8am to 8pm at the town hall. Four candidates seek the three seats (see story below). A special open town meeting follows on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 6:30 PM which includes articles amending the school board size, setting a budget between now and June 30, 2014, setting compensation for school board members, and repealing the Local School Advisory Committee ordinance effective when the RSU withdrawal is complete on June 30, 2014. One other non-school article is included in the special town meeting.

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has hired Dr. Judith Lucarelli to assist them with what needs to be done to get a Lamoine School Department up and running by next July 1st. Dr. Lucarelli has an impressive resume and currently serves as the Superintendent of the Otis School Department, working there one day per week. She has been Superintendent in the Bucksport School Department, for RSU 13 in the Rockland area, and has worked for the State Department of Education.

The Hancock Board of Selectmen have also engaged Dr. Lucarelli in a similar capacity. It will be up to the newly elected school committee whether to continue that engagement once it is seated in January. The City of Ellsworth has hired former Union 92 Superintendent of Schools Jack Turcotte to serve as the education consultant in that system.

Among the items it's anticipated that Dr. Lucarelli will assist with are helping to find a superintendent of schools, setting the school department up as an employer, with bank accounts, start work on an accounting system, and a policy manual. It's also anticipated that Dr. Lucarelli will help the Selectmen come up with a budget figure to fund the position and whatever other needs the school committee might incur through the end of June 2014, prior to the new budget taking effect.

The school committee will likely review the withdrawal agreement with RSU 24 to make sure both sides comply with the required tasks, and the consultant will likely be called upon to guide them through that process.

The initial funding for the position will be paid for out of the Administration Budget until the January 9, 2014 special town meeting. The article requesting a budget for the new school board will include reimbursement from the Education Fund to the administration account for any expenditures made prior to that date in regard to consulting services.



Bangor Hydro Electric Lineman Roy Sprague from Lamoine pulls a pine bough from a line on Douglas Highway as an ice storm hit Hancock and Washington Counties hard on the first official day of winter, 2013. Many residents would go without power for several days before restoration. More ice storm information on page 6.

Four Seek Three Seats on New Lamoine School Committee

(Lamoine) - The soon to be elected Lamoine School Committee will initially seat three members in staggered terms. Four names will be on the ballot, with only the one-year term contested. Shore Road resident Michael Brann and Cormorant Lane resident Gregory Stone both returned the required 25 signatures to be placed on the January 7, 2014 ballots. The one year term will expire at the

annual town meeting in 2015.

Returning petition signatures for the two year term is current RSU 24 representative Brett Jones, who will continue to represent Lamoine on the RSU Board until the withdrawal takes effect on June 30, 2014 regardless of the outcome of the local election.

Seeking the three-year post is Gordon Donaldson who currently serves

on the Local School Advisory Committee as well as on the Planning Board.

As noted above, the town meeting will consider amending its election ordinance to add two more seats to the school committee. Those additional slots would be filled on March 11, 2014 at the annual town meeting election, with nomination papers made available following the January 9th town meeting.

Town Meeting May Consider Gravel, Building Ordinance Changes

(Lamoine) - The town's Planning Board has crafted three sets of amendments to the Gravel Ordinance that narrowly passed at the March 2013 town meeting. One has to do with setbacks, and would allow a 50-foot setback to any previously permitted pit provided there is written abutter agreement. The second amendment would define the appeals process and allow an administrative appeal that would focus narrowly on issues instead of requiring the Board of Appeals to hear the entire pit application all over again. The final set of amendments would clarify how permit holders are to deposit funds into a bank account in order to create a restoration fund.

The proposed amendments were areas that the Planning Board identified as ordinance shortcomings immediately following passage, and were not in direct reaction to the suit filed by four permit holders after the town meeting vote. That suit remained in place as the calendar year neared the end, though the pit owners

attorney and the town attorney were talking over the areas of contention (see related article below).

The other possible change that may go before voters at the March 2014 Town Meeting involves the Building and Land Use Ordinance. Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon drafted up a set of changes for the Planning Board to consider in order to remove what few building requirements were contained in the ordinance. By law, all towns must comply with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. Towns with small populations (Lamoine included) may opt not to inspect for those standards, and an advisory vote in March 2013 indicated that the town should continue to not perform such inspections.

The Planning Board held a workshop in early December to address the proposed ordinance changes to reflect the non-inspection stance. A final draft is expected in early 2014.

Gravel Ordinance Suit Contention Areas ID'd

(Lamoine) - The attorney for four gravel pit operators and Town Attorney Dan Pileggi have identified three major areas of contention about the gravel ordinance passed in March 2013 that led to a suit shortly after passage. No resolution has yet been reached, and town meeting would have to approve any amendments to the ordinance that the Board of Selectmen might ultimately propose.

The three areas of disagreement involve the setback for digging which increased from 50-feet to 100-feet, the application process for pits that already have permits, and the number of monitoring wells required. The pit owners have indicated they would prefer to see redundant work eliminated in subsequent applications, as costly surveying work is required each time a permit is applied for. Pit owners also say there is a lot of risk that a permit might be denied in future years because of the complexity of the application process.

The ordinance also requires one monitoring well for each five acres of permitted land. Some larger pits will require multiple wells with annual water quality testing as well as depth level monitoring.

A fair amount of behind the scenes work is taking place between the two attorneys and at this point discussions between the town attorney and the Board of Selectmen have been shielded under the state's Freedom of Access laws. The Selectmen may name a task force to deal with the issues in early January following a meeting between the two attorneys in late December.

Comp Plan Update Recommended

(Lamoine) - A volunteer panel that looked over Lamoine's 1996 Comprehensive Plan and the requirements for a new plan has recommended that the town start the process to update the 17-year old document. The committee consisted of Chairman Fred Stocking, vice-chair Kathy Gaianguet, Joe Young, Merle Bragdon, Amy Duym, Valerie Sprague and Perry Fowler.

The group met with MacGregor Stocco from the State of Maine Planning Office division who walked them through what should take place. In the final report sent to the Board of Selectmen in October, the committee recommended starting the update in 2015 with a 2-year budget of \$15,000. The issue will be on the town meeting warrant for March 2014.

Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan issued the following:

Nbr	Name	Type
35	Field, Michael	Shoreland
36	Montgomery, Matthew	Deck Roof
37	Saffell, Pamela	Mobile Home
38	DeTuede, Catherine	Deck Roof
39	Duym, Thomas	Entry Roof
40	Balach, Barry	Deck

During the final quarter of the year, eight plumbing permits were issued, four for new or replacement septic systems, and four internal plumbing permits. In 2012 the Code Enforcement Officer issued 43 permits compared to 40 during 2012. Revenues from construction permits in 2013 were \$4,144.15, up \$819.70.

Permits Issued for Seven Gravel Pits

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board has issued conditional permits for seven of the nine gravel pits that saw permits expire at the end of October 2013. All nine pits had submitted applications under the new gravel ordinance passed in March 2013, and it has taken several months to make sure all the information required by the new ordinance is contained in the applications.

One of the remaining pits is the Marlboro pit owned by John W. Goodwin, Jr. . The public hearing on that application was rescheduled to January 14, 2013 after the wrong map and lot number were indicated on the public hearing notice, and not all the correct abutters were notified. The other operation is the so-called Kittredge Pit operated by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. which went before a public hearing on December 10, 2013. While five other MacQuinn pits received conditional approval, this pit was held up pending a review of ordinance definitions on wetlands and further study of the lot.

As mentioned, the pits received conditional approval, which includes installation of monitoring wells by May 2014. The pit owners are also required to request placement of Truck Entering signs near pit entrance roads from either the Maine Department of Transportation or the Lamoine Road Commissioner.

New Flood Maps, Aerial Pictures

(Lamoine) - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is finalizing the new set of flood maps for Lamoine (and all other coastal Maine communities). Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan has reviewed the preliminary set of maps. The final copies should be available over the winter.

The town has also received word that Hancock County will fund an aerial fly-over of the entire county and new photos of the town from above will be available sometime in 2014. This will be funded by revenue from the wind turbines in Township 10. The last time Lamoine had aerial photos taken was in 1973.

Subdivision Waived

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board again declined to get involved in a land subdivision on the Hancock and Ellsworth side of the town line at the head of Route 184. A tiny sliver of land that once belonged to Morrison Chevrolet was subdivided several years ago. It did not have any impact on the Lamoine side of the town line. An attorney handling a real estate sale asked the town to formally sign a waiver of its right to deal with the subdivision which the Planning Board approved in November.

County Sends Checks to Benefit Veterans

(Ellsworth) - The intention from the Hancock County Commissioners was honorable—attempt to help military Veterans in the county with property tax bills. The execution, though, has caused a few problems. If all goes as suggested on January 9, 2014, the issue will be dealt with.

In October, the county sent a check to the town for \$3,652.88 with instructions to help defray the property taxes for those Veterans in town who receive an exemption. Every town in the county got a check, with each Veteran to be credited \$47.44. One of the problems was the County Commissioners never asked the municipalities if they were able or willing to distribute the money. They had asked for a list of those receiving the exemption, which was easily accomplished.

The first question to face was whether the town could legally accept and distribute the money. An opinion

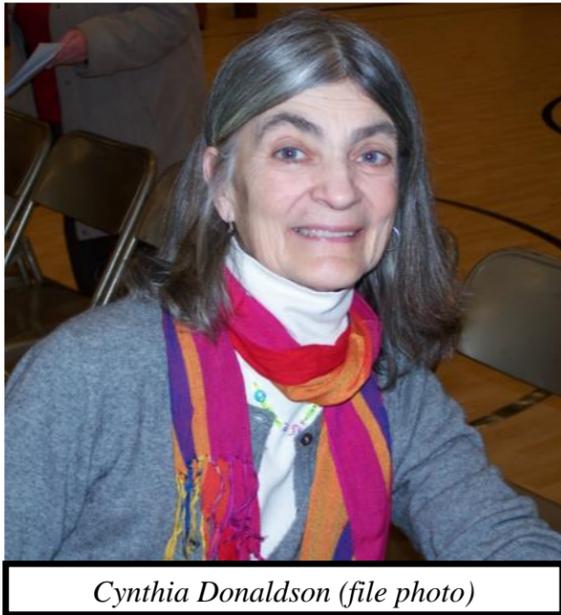
rendered by Maine Municipal Association for the Town of Hancock advised that the Town Meeting had to first accept the money before it could be distributed. Lamoine's Selectmen opted to abide by that opinion, and an article appears on the special Town Meeting warrant in early January.

Presuming voters approve acceptance and give the Selectmen authorization to distribute the funds, the big job for the town office staff will be to determine how to distribute it. Some Veterans have paid their first half tax bill and would be credited for the \$47.44 toward the second half bill with a receipt issued and mailed. Others have paid their entire tax bill for 2013/14 and will be issued a refund check, which will involve a lot of data entry. Those who've made no tax payment will have the funds credited toward interest first, then outstanding taxes, creating a third set of data entries.

Selectman Cynthia Donaldson to Retire

(Lamoine) - Cynthia Donaldson will attend her last regular Selectman's meeting in an official capacity on February 27, 2014. Mrs. Donaldson chose not to run for election to a 4th term on the Board of Selectmen. She was first elected to a 3-year term in March, 2005, and was re-elected in 2008 and 2011. The first year she served was also the first year for the expanded five member Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Donaldson has been a tireless advocate for little children and worked for many years for Special Children's Friends in Ellsworth. She sponsored a resolve approved unanimously at last year's town meeting expressing support for little ones and hopes to organize a private group to



Cynthia Donaldson (file photo)

carry out that resolve. On the Board, she was an excellent editor of both the meeting minutes and *The Lamoine Quarterly* and helped to rewrite the town's on-line policy and edit the recently approved appointment policy.

Nomination Papers Available

(Lamoine) - Nomination papers are now available for candidates for the March 11, 2014 municipal election. Initially, there is one seat open on the Board of Selectmen and one for the Board of Assessors. Incumbent Cynthia Donaldson has stated she will not run again (see article above). The 3-year seat on the Board of Assessors is currently held by Terry Towne.

To appear on the March ballot candidates must collect 25-signatures from registered Lamoine voters and turn those signatures in no later than January 25, 2014.

There may be two other races—if the special Town Meeting on January 9, 2014 approves the ordinance change to increase the new School Committee to five members. The deadline to gather at least 25-signatures will remain the same, and papers will be available on January 10, 2014 if the article is approved.

Town Meeting is March 11 & 12, 2014

Proposed Budget—Not Pretty

(Lamoine) - The annual municipal election will take place from 8am to 8pm on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Lamoine Town Hall (see article to the left for details). The open town meeting will follow on the next evening beginning at 6PM at the Lamoine School Gym.

The final town meeting warrant is in the process of being finalized. As noted elsewhere in this edition of *The Lamoine Quarterly* voters will most likely be asked to consider amendments to the Gravel Ordinance and the Building and Land Use Ordinance. Traditionally, ordinance changes are fairly early on in the warrant.

The municipal budget will follow to round out the meeting, and preliminary projections before the Budget Committee show it will be nearly impossible to keep the municipal property tax rate the same as the previous two years. The non-school, non-county portion of the budget recommendations will come out in early

Dog Licenses Due



(Lamoine) - Got a dog? Don't forget to license him/her. Dog licenses expire on December 31 each year. Folks have until January 31 to register without penalty. After that date, the late fee is \$25.00. Reminder notices will go out in February for those who fail to register by the grace period deadline, and if the dog remains un-registered, the Animal Control Officer may be asked to serve an official warning or a court summons for keeping an unregistered dog.

State law requires all dogs to be registered with the town clerk. To register your dog, current proof of rabies is required. If the dog is neutered and this is the first time registering, a neutering certificate is also required. Neutered dogs cost \$6.00 to register, unaltered dogs cost \$11.00.

Trash Number Rise, Recycling Down

(Lamoine) - As a town, Lamoine is throwing out more trash to burn and is recycling slightly less. If figures hold up, the amount of trash sent to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company in Orrington will increase by about 13-tons, or 2.4 percent. This may be something of an economic indicator as folks buy more items and dispose of old ones and the new packaging.

The recycling picture is slightly distorted, as the town no longer gets figures on the mixed paper loads—that material, which cost more to dispose of than received in revenue is co-mingled with other recycling sources. The rest of the recycling is down about 3-tons.

January from the Budget Committee.

There are a couple of large impacts on the budget. One is the town's paving program which has a cycle of roads to re-surface. Needles Eye Road is on the 2014/15 budget list, and because of the length of the road, it will cost a lot more to resurface than the previous two years (\$68,130). The increased snow plowing contract is another \$9,450, and various other budgets bump the increase up to \$91,200.

The other factor is non property tax revenue, which decreases by \$81,705. The largest piece of that is a \$70,000 reduction in fund balance (surplus) use. The surplus goal is \$300,000 in available cash, so the proposed amount to use to offset property taxes had to be reduced from the current year's \$100,000 allocation. Anticipated Municipal Revenue Sharing cuts account for the other major revenue loss.

Town Acquires Two Properties 2011/12 Taxes Remain Unpaid

(Lamoine) - Two parcels with buildings on each became tax acquired by the Town of Lamoine as a result of an unpaid 2011/12 property tax lien. One property on Douglas Highway is currently occupied by a renter. The other property on Needles Eye Road is a summer cottage.

In November the town sent out the required notices of foreclosure to all folks names on tax liens filed on June 14, 2012. By state law, if the liens are not paid, the town acquires the property automatically 18-months later, or December 14, 2013. Both property owners signed for the certified letters with the notice of

foreclosure, and neither party made any contact with the town office after receiving the notice.

The next step is for the Selectmen to offer the property back to the previous owner for all back taxes, fees and interest. Generally the Selectmen give the taxpayer 30-days to respond and if there is no response, the property would go up for public auction.

Between the two properties, more than \$5,300 is owed in back taxes (including the current fiscal year). Auction notices will be advertised if an when that process begins.

Chaos At Polling Place Leads to Changes

(Lamoine) - The November 5, 2013 balloting at times became a bit noisy and chaotic at the Lamoine Town Hall. The presence of poll watchers and a petition signature gathering operation contributed to a high noise level in the balloting area that led to a request from the town's part time ballot clerks to address the issue.

In response, Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs and Deputy Clerk Stu Marckoon will institute guidelines for external activities. Poll watchers will be reminded that they must be quiet if they wish to hear the names of voters checking in for ballots. They will also be instructed to refrain from conversation with folks who have voted in order to keep the area quiet.

Petition gathering operations will be located in the office supply room near the town hall entrance and limited to no more than two people who may only approach voters after they have cast ballots. If more than two petitions seek to gather signatures, they will have to do it outside of the building.

While the policy will limit the social aspect of conducting an election, the top priority for the staff is to make sure folks are secure about the integrity of the balloting system. Further suggestions are most welcome.

School Advisory Committee Plans Public Meeting

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's School Advisory Committee will hold a community wide discussion at the Lamoine Consolidated School on Thursday, January 23, 2014 from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM to discuss the future of the Lamoine School. The Advisory Committee was formed by ordinance when Lamoine joined RSU 24 to serve in an advisory capacity to the RSU 24 school committee. That ordinance is slated for repeal at the January 9, 2014 special town meeting.

Second Half of Property Taxes Due 2/28

(Lamoine) - The next property tax payment for the 2013/14 tax is due on February 28, 2014. With just a few days left in the calendar year, 30-percent of the property owners had paid their bills in full, leaving 70-percent owing by the due date. Only 13-percent of taxpayers had not made the first half payment which was due on August 31, 2013.

Several years ago the town began to offer the two payment option which helped lower interest fees for delinquent tax payers and also assisted with a more even cash flow for the town. The interest rate on unpaid property taxes remains at 7-percent (the maximum allowed under state law). Second half interest starts to accrue on March 1st.

Shore Road Resident Disclaims Property Ownership

(Lamoine) - A Shore Road resident claims that someone else owns the land and buildings for which he was assessed property tax in July 2013. Neil-douglas: salisbury met with the Board of Selectmen in late September after writing to tax collector Jennifer Kovacs to say that he didn't own the property. When pressed for the name of the person to whom he transferred ownership, Mr. Salisbury refused to provide that name. No deed beyond the one transferring the property to Mr. Salisbury has been filed at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds.

Should the property taxes remain unpaid on the property, a lien will be filed. There is already a lien on the same piece which was assessed to the former owner in 2012. The town has foreclosed on the property once and sold it back to the former owner for back taxes, fees and interest.

General Assistance Rules Updated

(Lamoine) - One of the most important functions of any municipal government is its general assistance, or welfare program. Every Maine town is required to have such a program, and an ordinance governs how it is operated. Most smaller communities use a model ordinance developed by the Maine Municipal Association, and Lamoine is no different.

Annually, the figures are update for various items including housing eligibility, overall eligibility, fuel assistance and other basic needs. The program administrator uses those figures to determine whether an applicant qualifies for assistance. A public hearing is required prior to ordinance adoption by the Board of Selectmen. The hearing for 2013 drew no comment from the few people in attendance at the Selectmen's meeting in October. It is rare that anyone testifies. The changed figures were adopted unanimously by the Selectmen.

Excise Collections Increase

(Lamoine) - When vehicle sales plummeted in 2009, excise tax collections by the town office followed suit. A strong 4th quarter in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 saw the first meaningful increase in excise tax collections since the economic bust, and the trend seems to be holding steady for the first two quarters of the current fiscal year.

As of late December, the town had collected \$135,741 compared to \$119,024 in 2012. The winter months are typically a slack time for excise collections. Thanks to slightly lower expectations, the amount collected was \$8,311 over budget, while last year's collection total through the same period was \$10,564 under budget.

Excise tax is based on the MSRP of the vehicle and the rate goes down for each of the first six years of the vehicle's life., starting at \$24/1000 and ending at \$4/1000.



Off their rocker?

During the semi-annual litter cleanup, the Adopt A Road crew on Buttermilk Road found a rocking chair tossed out in a ditch. The town thanks the many volunteers in the roadside cleanup program for their efforts.

New Fire Truck Nears Completion

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department's newest truck should be delivered sometime in January if all goes right. The tanker truck is still under construction at K&T Environmental Equipment in Island Falls, but nearing completion at year's end. When it's finished, the truck will carry 1,800 gallons of water and have a pump with the ability to pump at least 1,000 gallons per minute. This will mean the tanker could be used in a pinch as a pumper truck, either to attack a fire or fill other tanker trucks.



The pump panel on Lamoine's newest fire truck is taking shape. The truck should be in service in January

The truck is expected to exceed the \$230,000 budgeted cost thanks to some design changes by the fire department. Private fund raising by the fire department will cover those extra costs. The fire department already agreed to fund \$25,000 of the cost, with the town financing \$192,000. The new truck will carry the unit number 402, and replace current tanker 404 as the first out tanker.

Fire Department Has Busy Fall

(Lamoine) - Chimney fires and mutual aid calls to neighboring (and not so neighboring) communities kept the members of the Lamoine Fire Department hopping this fall. The department responded to a pair of night time chimney fire calls, one in Lamoine Beach Road and the other on Needles Eye Road. There was some minor damage to each home from the fire and the extinguisher material used to put them out, but both homes are livable and occupied still. No injuries are reported.



Selectman and Fire Lt. Bernie Johnson and Rick Gallegos face down a flaming chimney on Needles Eye Road

The department was called to Ellsworth twice for station coverage while our mutual aid partner battled fires. During one of those calls, the department responded to a city fire alarm at a gas station.

The biggest out of town call sent the tanker truck on what may be its last first-line response duty to Tremont to battle the blaze at Cap'n Nemo's Restaurant. The Lamoine crew ended up using the tanker to pump water onto the scene in an attack mode instead of its usual water shuttling mode. It performed flawlessly. The department also responded to a fire alarm at the school and to an alarm on Lamoine Beach Road activated by burning toast.

Lamoiners Generous to FD, Fire Victims

(Lamoine) - Fund raising dinners a week apart saw town residents open their hearts and their wallets to help out. The first dinner and auction benefited the John and Lynne Karst family who lost their home on Walker Road in September. The event raised more than \$3,500. The Karsts are currently in the process of planning to demolish the burned out house and rebuild in 2014.

The annual Lamoine VFD dinner and auction in October saw more than \$3,300 raised. The silent auction featured numerous gift certificates and donated goods from local residents and business owners, and replaced the live auction that the department opted not to hold in August. Money raised from the event will be used to help equip the new tanker truck with hose, a 2-way radio, and other firefighting gear that was not included in the bid specifications.



Snow fencing installed on Pinkhams' Flats (Route 204)

Trees Trimmed, Culverts Reset

(Lamoine) - A lot of lumber came tumbling down on Raccoon Cove Road during the fall of 2013. The town hired Top Notch Tree service to significantly cut back tree growth that had prevented sunlight from reaching the road surface, making it difficult to plow and de-ice in the winter. Tree trimming also took place on a portion of Seal Point Road.

The town also had a contractor McMullen Landscaping and Construction re-set several heaved up culverts on Birchlawn Drive. The metal pipes were still in decent shape, but the clay-like material underneath was replaced with gravel that will drain much better and prevent future heaving (we hope). McMullen also scraped down shoulders on Marlboro Beach Road and the dirt portion of the entrance to Marlboro Beach.

Jay Fowler's crew did some work on Berry Cove Road near the intersection of Gully Brook., cleaning out the inlet and outlet of a cross culvert that had ceased to function. The end of the town portion of that road gets extremely muddy after significant rain, and more work may come in the spring.

Snow Fencing Installed

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's snow plowing contractor Richard McMullen turned back a page in time and installed snow fencing this fall along a section of Pinkhams' Flats and Mud Creek Road to prevent snow drifts. Years ago the temporary fences existed on those stretches with mixed success.

McMullen says he is in hopes that when the wind blows from the north, the fence will stop the blowing snow before it drifts onto the travel lanes of the road. Beside the obvious public safety advantage, there is an economic advantage. McMullen said if just one extra plow session is avoided with the fence, the cost for purchasing and installing is more than offset by the labor and fuel savings.

McMullen consulted with Harrison Pinkham whose family owns the land where the snow fencing is installed. Pinkham's father, Carleton, was a long time Selectman and plowed the roads for many years.

Long Time Parks Commission Chair Retires New Parks Commissioners Appointed

(Lamoine) - Seal Point Road resident Kerry Galeaz has retired as a parks commissioner after 8-years on the job, the entire time as chair of the board. Galeaz leaves with no ill will—saying it was time for some new blood on the commission.

During his tenure, the three town parks saw some major improvements. He spearheaded the effort to install kiosks at Lamoine Beach Park and Bloomfield Park (on Blunt's Pond), put in new grills and handicapped accessible picnic tables at Lamoine Beach, and to make the parks more user friendly. More importantly, Galeaz coordinated the rest of the commission on annual maintenance projects to keep the parks in excellent shape. Selectmen say he will be sorely missed.

Taking his place on the commission is Point View Lane resident Matthew Montgomery, the marketing director for the Downeast Family YMCA. Matt's wife Jessica has agreed to serve as an alternative member of the commission. Paula Gardiner of Meadow Point Road was also appointed to the Parks Commission, she lives fairly close to Lamoine Beach and was eager to help. Gardner will serve as the Commission's secretary while long time member Christa Brey has agreed to chair the committee. Brey's husband Rich is also an alternative member. The commission is rounded out with members Doug Jones and Julie Herrick. The commission met with Selectmen in October and outlined the budget for 2014/15.

Boat Ramps: One to Improve, One to Go

(Lamoine) - The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will spend the winter drawing up improvement plans for Lamoine State Park, and a big part of that plan is an improved boat launching and retrieval ramp. At low tide, it is virtually impossible to launch a boat, and the commercial fishing community has been requesting an improvement for many years. A proposal is expected to come to the town sometime in the late spring, with construction possible in the fall of 2014. The plans will include a better parking scheme, and a "ground-out" float system that will assist both recreational and commercial fishing vessels.

During a meeting with Harbor Masters David Herrick and Kevin Murphy, it was noted that the boat ramp at Lamoine Beach Park is in decrepit condition and has never really been usable. The Parks Bureau suggested that a formal request be made for the state to remove that ramp, as a property configured ramp would be cost prohibitive. Lamoine's Selectmen, in consultation with the Parks Commission, have written to the Bureau requesting the removal, and regional manager Mike Leighton has informed the town that will take place.

On Line, Appointment Policies Approved

(Lamoine) - One of the major responsibilities for the Selectmen is to set town policy of how things should operate. After a lot of discussion, drafts, re-drafts and comment periods, Selectmen have approved a comprehensive policy that governs how folks are appointed to various non-elected positions in town. Each appointee position was evaluated for its status as either paid or volunteer, the appointment process for each position and

the incumbency status are laid out and the Selectmen retain the right to interview potential candidates for volunteer appointed posts.

The other updated policy has to do with the town's website. The original policy was about 10-years old and difficult to comprehend (it was originally drafted by an attorney). Selectman Cynthia Donaldson redrafted it so that it means the same thing, but is easier to read.

Backup Transfer Station Attendant Named

(Lamoine) - As expected, the Board of Selectmen approved of Adam Sargent to be a backup attendant at the Lamoine Transfer Station. The backup is rarely utilized, but occasionally manager Bill Fennelly takes a weekend off from his duties at the transfer station. Sargent lives fairly close by the facility on Lamoine Beach Road.

December Ice Storm Hammers Region

(Lamoine) - For those who've been here for more than 15-years, the weather that arrived on December 22, 2013 was eerily familiar. Rain hit frozen surfaces and it was so cold that it coated everything, creating ice covered trees and extremely slick roadways. And the power went out—all over town at times. Some places went more than 5-days without power and that caused several residents to seek alternative living quarters until linemen could repair things.

Town facilities were not immune from the ice damage—mostly due to lack of electricity. Thankfully, the storm hit the day after school vacation began, so no school days were lost due to the lack of power. The town office, though, had to close early both on December 23rd and 24th because there computers and heat would not work. The fire station functioned pretty much as normal, thanks to a generator installed after the 1998 ice storm.

Plowing contractor Richard McMullen had to cut dozens of trees out of the path of the salt/sand trucks just to get through, and was able to keep the roads in remarkably good shape all over town. The fire department responded to

numerous calls of wires down in the roadways and also helped with tree clearing. There were a couple of minor storm related fire calls, but no significant damage.

The town kept people informed about what was going on through its facebook page. Normally, the town's regular web page would contain the information, but because the power was out at the town hall, the web server was also down.

The American Red Cross set up a shelter at the Ellsworth Elementary/Middle School and when the town office opened the day after Christmas, several folks warmed up and charged cell phones there.

Ice Storm Impacts Transfer Station, FD

(Lamoine) - The late December ice storm caused treacherous driving—so bad that even one of the salt trucks slid off Douglas Highway early in the morning. There was no significant damage or injury.

The fire department responded to a roll-over accident without injury on Partridge Cove Road at 4:45 am on December 21st. And the truck that picks up the trash from the dumpsters at the transfer station slid off Route 1-A in Ellsworth after failing to make McGown's Hill. A salt/sand truck that was headed to that area to help clear the road also went off the road. The trash remained in the dumpsters, and folks squeezed in the Saturday trash which was picked up and taken to the incinerator in Orrington the next Monday.



A birch tree leans into Shore Road under the weight of ice left behind by a freezing rain storm that began December 22 and lasted until December 24, 2013.

Conservation Commission Busy

By Larry Libby

(Lamoine) - The Conservation Commission has submitted a proposal to the Maine Recreational Trail Program to develop and improve the Simon Woods trail off Partridge Cove Road. The trail features beautiful hiking and cross country ski trails and is under permanent easement to the Frenchman Bay Conservancy. We should know the results in April.

The U-Maine School of Economics has completed a Trade Area Analysis for Lamoine, comparing retail sales in various sectors to sales in nearby towns. The results will be presented to residents at a public meeting in the spring, and this should prove helpful in long range planning activities.

The Commissioner met with forester Steve MacDonald of Bangor to discuss the importance of managing private forest lands. He'll be back in March or April with the Landowner Outreach Forester from the Maine Forest Service for a presentation.

We welcome new board member Linda Penkalski who was appointed this fall. Doug Stewart has also been appointed as a full member.

The Conservation Commission will present its annual award at the March 12, 2014 town meeting.

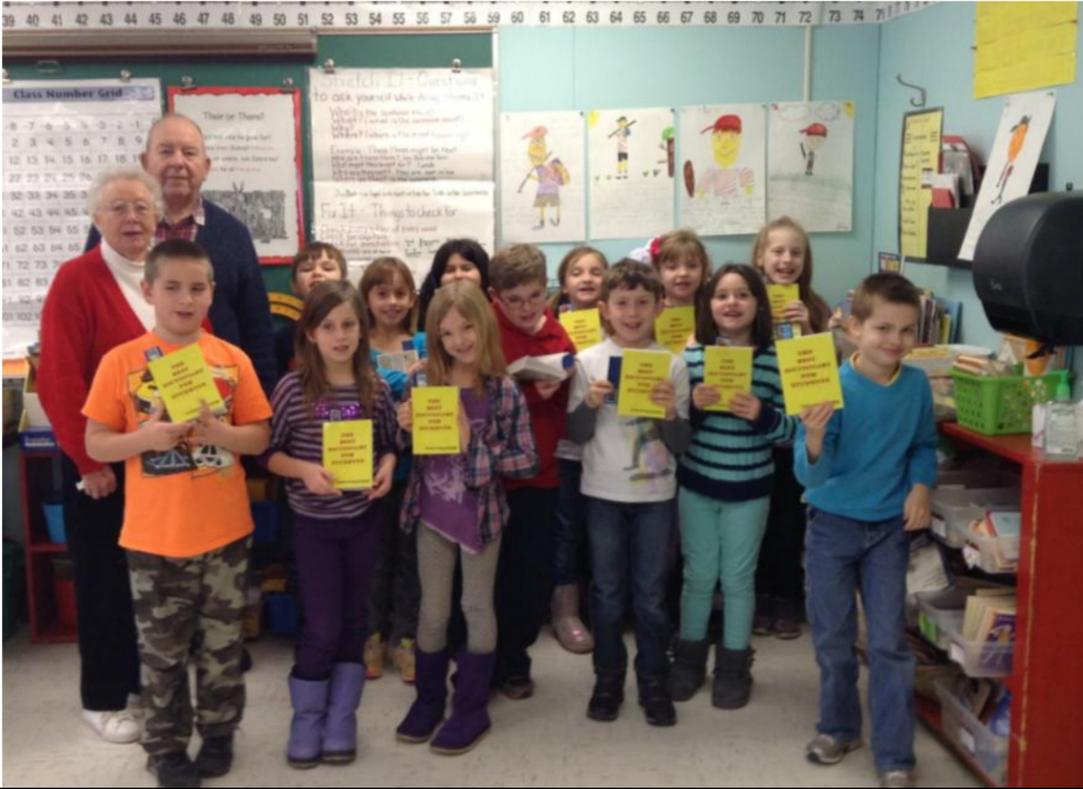
Lamoine Community Arts

By Carol Korty & Diane Sanderson

(Lamoine) - Five performances of *The Constant Wife* by W. Somerset Maugham culminated in sold out houses at the Lamoine-Bayside Grange during the first two weeks of November. It was the most ambitious production to date because of the two hours of non-stop dialogue. That's a lot of words for the actors to learn, but they did and also mastered the British wording of the 1920s.

LCA is now into its winter readings for the fun of it in each others' homes. These occur on the last Saturday evenings of January, February and March. January's session will be hosted by Tom and Sharon St. Claire and we'll read a delightful script *On Golden Pond* by Earnest Thompson. More details at 667-7877, and all are welcome.

The Play Reading Committee meets regularly to search for scripts for the Readers' Theater production in May and for the full production in the fall of 2014.



Linwood and Yvonne Brann (left, back) stand with third grade students who are holding up their brand new dictionaries provided courtesy of the Lamoine / Bayside Grange. The Grange program has provided scores of dictionaries over the years to Lamoine students.

Returnable Donations Benefit Local Groups

(Lamoine) - The program where the town collects returnable containers at the transfer station and converts them to cash seems to be working fairly well. Once a month Stacey Curtis and crew from Lamoine Redemption collects the cans and bottles from the storage garage and sends the town a check. In 2013, the following groups have benefitted:

Girl Scout Troop 796	\$170.55
Lamoine School PATRONS	\$159.40
Lamoine/Bayside Grange	\$541.35
Lamoine School 8th Grade	\$138.00
East Lamoine Cemetery	\$209.20
Lamoine Historical Society	\$367.30
Lamoine School Music	\$405.00
Frenchman Bay Riders	\$294.90
Pee Wee Cheering	\$236.65

The receipts for November and December have yet to be finalized. In 2014, the Girl Scouts and the 8th Grade are on the list for January and February returnables. Groups wishing to apply must submit their applications, available on the town's website.

Vital Statistics Get Complicated

(Lamoine) - Gone are the days where a person could come into the town office and request a certified copy of a birth certificate or death certificate, have it printed off, and be on their way quickly. The State of Maine has gotten involved, and the Department of Health and Human Services has placed death and birth records into a centralized database system which is tremendously complicated to operate. What used to be about a 5-minute process through a photocopier can now take up to an hour to process, if things go well.

Requesters also have to provide proof that they have a right to receive the record by filling out a relatively simple application for the town clerk's counter. The complexity of the state system has proven to be difficult at best to navigate around. Even when finding the death record in the electronic maze of the state database, the process of printing out the certified copy has been challenging. And, if the hospital or funeral home do not enter all the required information, the requester will have to wait until the record is properly entered to be able to access the document.

Clerk Jennifer Kovacs is updating her training on the system over winter and reports a few improvements.

Cable TV Productions

(Lamoine) - Cable TV operations manager Kendall Davis has completed work on a nifty show about trash and what happens after folks drop things off at the transfer station. It has aired numerous times on Lamoine's public education channel (121 or 5 on digital cable). He is currently working on a show about the new Simon's Trail. A story on the new Habitat for Humanity House completed last summer has run into some technical glitches and may not be completed.



Go Sam!
Marlboro Beach Road resident Sam Alvarado swims for the Downeast Family YMCA team and is ranked 7th in the nation for the 1000 yard freestyle and 6th in the 1650 yard freestyle. (Greg Tehennepe photo)

January 2014—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-Office Closed, New Year's Day	2	3	4-Office open 8-12
5	6-6:30 PM Budget Committee	7-8am to 8pm School Committee Election	8-7PM Conservation Commission	9-6:30 PM Selectmen 7PM Special Town Meeting	10	11
12	13	14-6:30 PM Planning Board	15-7PM Shellfish Conservation	16	17	18
19	20-Office Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23—7PM Selectmen	24	25-Office open 8-12
26	27-Nomination Papers Due	28	29	30	31	

February 2014—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-Office open 8-12
2	3	4-7PM Planning Board	5-Assessors Time to be announced	6	7	8
9	10	11	12-7PM Conservation Cmsn	13-7PM Selectmen	14	15
16	17-Town Office Closed-President's Day	18	19-7PM Shellfish Conservation	20	21	22-Office open 8-12
23	24	25	26	27-7PM Selectmen	28	

March 2014-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-Office open 8-12
2	3	4-7PM Planning Board	5-Assessors TBA	6	7	8
9	10	11-Municipal Election 8am-8pm	12-6PM Annual Town Meeting	13-7PM Selectmen	14	15
16	17	18	19-7PM Shellfish Conservation	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27-6:30 Community School Discussion 7PM Selectmen	28	29-Office Open 8-12
30	31					

The Lamoine Quarterly
January 2014

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- 6 Ice Storm Hammers town
- 6 Boat Ramp to go
- 7 Returnables Help Locals

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605