

# The Lamoine Quarterly

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## Property Tax Rate Rises *State Budget Delay Impact is Slight*

(Lamoine) - Increased special education and high school tuition costs will translate into a property tax rate increase in Lamoine for the first time in 3-years. Voters approved the \$2.397 million dollar school budget swiftly on May 31st and validated that approval on June 13th. The school budget represents a \$190,794 increase in local property taxes needed to fund school operations for 2017/18. The county budget imposed by the Hancock County Commissioners requires a \$5,033 increase, and the municipal budget passed in March reduces the tax need by roughly \$4,400. The bottom line budget calls for about \$191,000 more in property taxes to fund the next fiscal year.

The question comes to mind: "how will this affect our property tax bill". The answer is, about 7%, or 7/10 of 1-mill (\$0.70 per \$1,000 valuation)

The State of Maine caused a bit of a worry when the Legislature failed to pass a

budget by June 30th, leading to a state shutdown for 4-days. That was resolved, and the new budget answered some gnawing questions. The Legislature increased the homestead exemption to a \$20,000 valuation reduction. At the likely tax rate of \$10.70, that will result in an increased homestead reduction of \$62.50.

The assessed value on a \$200,000 homestead property will rise by \$57.50 compared to the previous year; the bill last summer was \$1,868.50, the bill this summer would be \$ 1,926.00. Currently, 406 homes in Lamoine are approved for a homestead property tax exemption.

Tax bill were scheduled to be mailed out in mid-July as usual. The first half of the property tax payment is due on August 31, 2017 and the second half payment is due on February 28, 2018. The town office has received many calls asking when bills will be out and several property owners have made pre-payments.

## Anonymous Donation Troubling

(Lamoine) - When Lamoine's Planning Board convened for yet another meeting regarding a major gravel extraction operation's expansion on June 12th, there was an envelope left in the door. Board chair John Holt opened it, and inside were seven \$20.00 gift cards (shown below) with a business card thanking the Planning Board members. Holt called it a thoughtful but inappropriate gesture. Thus far no one has claimed credit for the cards.

The inappropriate part comes by giving the appearance of impropriety. Just what the Planning Board was being rewarded for is not clear, though they have worked extremely long hours lately, processing some very complex gravel applications (see page 2). The Board volunteers its time without compensation.

Holt has turned in the cards to the Board of Selectmen, with a request that whoever paid \$140 for the cards please come claim them back and donate them to a more appropriate organization. Acceptance of the cards, it was feared, would be grounds for appeal no matter which way a vote might go on pending matters before the Planning Board.

## Fire Department Auction Set for Aug. 18

(Lamoine) - The two most oft asked questions in the summer in Lamoine are "When will the property tax bills be out" and "When is the Fire Department Auction". We can pretty much guarantee that most people prefer the answer to the latter question, which is August 18th.

Firefighters are busy gathering up donations for what will be the 20th annual fire department auction. It is the 2nd biggest fund raiser of the year for the volunteer fire department, and while it is a lot of work, it's also a lot of fun. Generally the auction raises between \$4,000 and \$7,000 a year.

If you have useful items to donate to the auction you can contact chairman Joe Young or Deputy Chief Stu Marckoon to have the fire department com pick up the goods. They can be reached through the town hall (207-667-2242). Small items can be dropped off at the town hall during regular business hours.

The fire department requests that large items such as furniture and building supplies not be donated. They're difficult to sell, and create storage and transportation problems for the fire

department and eventual buyers. They also request that used items be in good, working condition. The rule of thumb is that if it won't sell at a yard sale, it's going to be even more difficult to sell it at an auction.

The department will have a new, volunteer auctioneer this year from within the ranks of the department. Your *Lamoine Quarterly* writer and Deputy Fire Chief, Stu Marckoon, has agreed to lead the bidding. He's learned well from past volunteer auctioneers Chas Hare and Mike Hodgkins over the years, and has served as the volunteer auctioneer for Hospice of Hancock County, The Ellsworth Rotary Club and the Emmaus Homeless Shelter. Preview begins at 5:00 PM, bidding at 6PM at the Lamoine School.



*The gift cards above were left anonymously. The Planning Board requests the donor pick them up at the town hall.*

## Town Offered Mud Creek Road Parcel

(Lamoine) - Lamoine may add a new park to it's holdings in the next few months as both the Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission have recommended accepting a gift from the trust that holds large tracts of land formerly owned by long-time Selectman Carlton Pinkham. The more than two acre parcel is on the southwest side of the "S" turns on Mud Creek Road and would offer water access to the creek and a view to the osprey nest, wading birds, and a possible future picnic area.

Pinkham's wife Erva first proposed the park many months ago and working

with her children and Comprehensive Planning Committee chair Fred Stocking and Kenneth Smith, an associate Conservation Commission volunteer, they have formalized the offer.

The next stop will be the Board of Selectmen. With the Conservation Commission recommendation to accept the gift came several other recommendations, including obtaining a survey description of the donation prior to closing. A special town meeting will be needed to appropriate funds for costs associated with the donation and to have the town accept the land. No town

meeting has yet been scheduled.

There are no set plans for the proposed park. Several items will have to be discussed, including construction costs, what facilities will be available, funding for maintaining a park such as mowing, trash disposal, and possible winter maintenance.

There are no construction plans formulated either. Discussion has revolved around offering a parking area, a few picnic tables, and a possible ramp to launch small craft such as kayaks and canoes. It's possible that a zoning change will also be needed in order to construct a park with such facilities within the shoreland zone.

## Digital Sign Offers Exceed Budget



(Lamoine) - The town hall's quest to have an electronic sign installed has hit a bit of a possible snag. Of the three proposals received, two exceeded the \$20,000 budget and the third has left some unanswered questions.

The picture above shows the sign in Belgrade which would be a bit like the setup proposed in Lamoine. Ours, though, would be a good size smaller. The bidder that came in under budget also built the sign in Belgrade (shown above in mid-

cycle), but proposed a black letters on white background, and the town would have to build its own planter and install electric lines to the sign. That has not yet been priced out.

The Board of Selectmen will work on coming up with an alternative which will fit within the budget and serve the town well for years to come. With some effort, a new sign may be installed by early fall. It will be located next to the current wooden sign.

## Town, Builder Reach Settlement

(Lamoine) - After showing up to small claims court, the Town and Broughman Builders have reached a settlement on a consent agreement following a self-reported setback violation. On the advice of town attorney Diane O'Connell, the town entered the agreement which among other things called for a \$5,250 fine. Broughman had balked at paying the fine, and O'Connell filed the court claim. Just

minutes prior to reaching the courtroom floor, two Selectmen and company owner Michael Wight agree to a \$5,000 payment which was confirmed a few days later by the entire Board of Selectmen. The house on Douglas Highway was sold following the initial consent agreement. The case is now closed. Wight had constructed a fence in front of the home and moved a driveway as part of the agreement.

## CEO Issues Lots of Permits

### Certification Date Extended

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos will have another 6-months to become fully certified with the state of Maine. When Gallegos was appointed in May of 2016 the state had stopped offering training classes. Gallegos attended what few offerings there were until classes started back up in the spring of 2017. He will have until November to receive certification.

Meanwhile, he and Local Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan have been very busy issuing permits and inspecting projects. The following building permits were issued between May and June, 2017:

Nbr	Name	Project
5	Frye, Paul	Residence
6	Eaton, Anthony	Residence
7	Farkas, Kenneth	Residence
8	Hodgkins, Paul	Deck
9	Bennett, Phil	Pier/Dock
10	Belch, Anthony	Residence
11	Alley, Wayne	Garage (Com'l)
12	Fallica, Stephen	Deck
13	Doug Gott	Residence
14	Gordon, Kate	Residence
15	Clark, Donald	Gazebo
16	Upson, Larry	Garage

17	Hering, Richard	Shoreline
18	Gordon, Burnie	Residence
19	Perkins, Gary	Deck
20	Not issued	
21	I&E Enterprise	Residence
22	Sprague, Roy	Garage
23	Davis, Wm	Residence
24	Tribou, Carol	Shed
25	Comolli, Bruce	Porch Addn
26	Dyer, Donald	Deck
27	Not issued	
27	Frost, Timothy	Addition
28	Mason, Carol	Addition

In addition to the above permits, LPI Jordan has issued permits for 8 new subsurface waste disposal (septic) systems and three internal plumbing and hook up permits.

The two permit numbers that indicated "not issued" were either a duplicated permit number assignment or an incomplete permit application upon which no action has yet been taken.

The Planning Board approved permit # 11, a new commercial garage located at Alley's Car Care on Douglas Highway, and as noted above gave location approval to permit # 18.

## Board Approves Non-Conforming Home Replacement

(Lamoine) - A communication error led to a lot of heartburn about a home that was demolished and replaced on the same foundation on Lorimer Road. Lamoine's Planning Board approved the re-used location as required by Lamoine's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

Property owner Burnie Gordon had received a permit to add about 30-percent to the 2nd story of the home. Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos approved the addition in 2016, but when Assessors visited the lot, they discovered the entire home had been razed and a new building was taking its place. That resulted in a complaint about violating the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance which requires non-conforming buildings to get Planning Board approval after destruction. The CEO was out of the country at the time, the Selectmen heard the matter as an emergency in late March, and referred the property owner to the Planning Board. A site visit prompted the Planning Board to find using the current foundation in the same site was suitable. Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan required the project get site evaluator certification that the septic system on site was suitable. The system had been installed long before permits were required, and the evaluation found that the current system would be adequate. The project is nearly complete.

## Four Pits Approved

(Lamoine) - The town's Planning Board has wiped a lot of business off its plate for the summer by approving four gravel extraction permits. Two adjoining pits won approval to excavate to their common boundary, one pit is under new ownership, and a large excavation area is approved for another 3-years (see page 5).

HORPLand LLC owner Perry Fowler (who recused himself from the Planning Board) expanded his permitted area to meet a common boundary with Harold MacQuinn, Inc. The two pits abut each other behind the Lamoine Town Hall.

A pit formerly owned by Michael Keene between Partridge Cove Road and Seal Point Road saw a permit granted to new owner Cameron Stone and Landscape of Mt. Desert. Owner Jesse Cameron purchased the land from Keene a few months ago

## Road Proposed

(Lamoine) - Contractor Doug Gott & Sons has proposed expanding an existing woods road by more than the amount required to obtain a Site Plan Review Permit. The Planning Board reviewed the initial application in July for the existing road located off Lamoine Beach Road. The town fielded several inquiries when trucks hauled in hundreds of yards of gravel to start expanding a woods road to allow for a tree harvest utilizing the road. The Board is expected to review a full application in August.

## Elected Assessor Resigns

(Lamoine) - The elected Board of Assessors is down to just two members following the resignation of Michael Jordan which Selectmen accepted in late May. Mr. Jordan's term expires in June 2018. Jane Fowler and Terry Towne have agreed to operate as a two person board until a new assessor is elected in March 2018 at the annual town meeting.

The Board of Selectmen will take a look at the present assessing setup. The three member elected board receives a small annual stipend and hires an appraisal firm to do much of the assessing work and preparation of updated tax maps. Town staff assists the board to some extent. Many options exist, including leaving things as they are, hiring an administrative assistant for the Board to keep up with day to day changes, combining another part-time staff position (possibly Code Enforcement) with assessing to make either a full or increased hours part time position. The Board hopes to meet with the remaining assessors in the fall to explore what change, if any, might work best for the town.

## Tax Acquired Property Sold

(Lamoine) - Lamoine voters approved sale of a piece of tax acquired property off Linden Lane to the daughter of the former owners. The town acquired 2.9 acre parcel when a tax lien filed in July 2016 had not been paid by January 2017. Additional time following the automatic foreclosure date was granted after it was discovered that a contractor had placed a mechanic's lien on the property, but had not specifically identified the town involved.

The town meeting approved language to dispose of tax acquired property requires the Selectmen to first offer the parcel to the previous owner for all back taxes, fees and interest. The previous owner contacted the town and said they no longer wished to own the property. Meanwhile, a daughter and daughter-in-law contacted the town and said they wished to have the land remain in the family. By agreement, daughter Deborah Kane put up the payment to become the new owner. Selectmen agreed that while the town meeting language was silent on offering the property to family members, it was the right thing to do. Voters agreed, swiftly approving the sale on May 31 to Ms. Kane. The sale was completed a few weeks later.

For the 2017/18 tax season, the property will be listed as municipally owned. The Selectmen had built in a projected tax to the sale price. Starting in the 2018/19 year, the new owner will be assessed for the property taxes.

## Selectmen, Tax Collector Settle Up

(Lamoine) - Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs has delivered the required taxes, liens, and other collections for 2011 through 2014. There had been no dispute, but a settlement paper is highly recommended to show a tax collector is no longer personally liable to collect

## Some Appointee Changes

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen struggled a bit when two current Planning Board members expressed some interest in stepping back from the position after the board decides on a major gravel pit expansion question. Both Don Bamman, who is chairing the board for the Harold MacQuinn, Inc. expansion application, and alternate David Legere, said they would like to stay on the Planning Board through the conclusion of the process. Citizens Richard Davis and Catherine deTuede also expressed interest in serving on the Planning Board should those seats open up.

The Selectmen reappointed Mr. Bamman and Mr. Legere following a meeting in late June with all four candidates.

Meanwhile, there is a change in the makeup of the Conservation Commission. Both chair Larry Libby and Secretary Anne Labossiere have retired. Mosely Point Lane resident Kerry Diskin was appointed to one seat, and current Conservation Commission alternate Jeff Cosulich takes the other. The Commission seeks a 2nd alternate member.

Paula Gardner has stepped down from the Parks Commission. No one expressed interest so far in that open seat and the vacancy remains, as does a vacant alternate member to Lamoine's Budget Committee.

People interested in filling vacancies should contact a Selectman or the Lamoine Town Office.

## Liens to be Filed in Late July

(Lamoine) - Quite a few people did not pay the entirety of their 2016/17 property taxes on time. On June 21st, the town sent out 137 notices to delinquent taxpayers giving them 30-days to pay or a lien would be filed (at significantly higher cost) at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds.

In a few instances the assessed owners had sold their property after April 1, 2016, the owner of record assessment date. Generally, when a real estate transaction closes, the unpaid taxes are paid so that neither the seller or the buyer are surprised when the lien notices go out.

Town staff will place the tax liens after July 21st on those properties that have unpaid balances remaining. The lien will be in the name of the owner of record as of 4/1/16, even if they no longer own the property. Any new owner, mortgage holder, or other party of interest on the property will be sent a copy of the tax lien by certified mail which is one of the reasons for the high lien costs. Taxpayers are advised to speak with the town treasurer if they are unsure whether the taxes are paid.

outstanding taxes. Most taxes are placed into lien, but it's illegal to lien personal property taxes. Selectmen ended up writing off one account as uncollectible upon the advice of the town attorney. Only one personal property bill remains outstanding for the 15/16 tax year.

## Spring Cleanup Yields Lots of Litter



*Adopt a Highway volunteer Trisha Smith had no trouble filling a trash bag on her section of Buttermilk & Jordan River Road. Smith finished up her semester at Husson University and has joined the US Army.*

(Lamoine) - A lot of motorists have little consideration for the roadsides of Lamoine when driving through as evidenced by bags and bags of roadside litter removed by the Adopt a Highway Volunteers.

Among the more disturbing trash trends are "nip" bottles—small containers of alcoholic beverages, and small boxes of wine. A lot of those turned up along Douglas Highway between Jordan River Road and well north of the Town Hall.

The town also contacted the Maine Forest Service after a large amount of discarded material was discovered off the Mill Road. A ranger questioned a local resident about the trash, and though he had been observed taking many of the items from the town's swap shop, he denied discarding them improperly.

We thank our dozens of volunteers who help to keep the roadsides clean, and those motorists who are conscientious enough to wait until they get home to put the car's trash into a plastic bag for a trip to the transfer station. If you wish to adopt a section of road, please contact Georgia Munsell who coordinates the Adopt a Highway Program local. Her e-mail address is: [Munsells@gmail.com](mailto:Munsells@gmail.com).

## Town Offers Dental Insurance

(Lamoine) - It doesn't take long for the bills to add up quickly when it comes to dental work. The town employees' health insurance plan will now offer dental insurance coverage for those full time workers who elect to use the town's health insurance coverage. Currently only one of the two full time employees is covered by the plan through the Maine Municipal Health Trust.

The increased premium for dental insurance will be picked up in its entirety by the employee. The town covers 80% of the cost of the remainder of the health insurance package. The other full time employee is covered by a spouse's health insurance plan, and reimbursed for those lower cost premiums by the town.

## Town Office Floor has Fewer Holes

(Lamoine) - When the town had a new propane furnace installed a couple years ago, the installers cut a hole in the floor near the meeting room and the town clerk's service window to act as a cold air return. A previous return hole a few feet away was unhooked, but the hole and grate remained in the floor. The new return vent caused a lot of noise—it was sometimes hard to hear while doing business and during board meetings when the furnace came on.



*Town Facilities Maintenance Director Rick Gallegos replaces flooring in the hall in front of the service counters after the cold air return was moved to the front office supply area.*

The town hired a ventilation duct company on the recommendation of the company that installed the new furnace. They removed the duct work from the newer return hole and made another hole in the front office supply room, away from

the meeting room and service counter. It is noticeably much quieter now, and the new flooring looks nice, especially with no grates. The project cost less than \$1,000.

## Community Center Committee Needed

(Lamoine) - A lot of feedback about Lamoine's need for a community center has led Selectmen to look at forming a committee in the fall. That feedback started more than a year ago when the Comprehensive Planning Committee held a public forum, and each small group at the forum independently identified a community center as an important need. While the Lamoine School has a fair amount of public space, its utilization as a school precludes a lot of community activity. The town hall has limited parking

and meeting space, and meeting while the offices are open for business creates a few problems as well.

The Selectmen approved a concept, tasking a new committee with coming up with a vision for such a center, identifying possible locations, a budget and coming up with a recommendation for the Selectmen to present to the town. The committee's work should start in the fall of 2017. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact any Selectman or the town office.

## Salt/Sand Shed Needs Repairs

(Lamoine) - After nearly 10-years of use, Lamoine's salt/sand shed is showing some signs of wear and tear, and the town's insurance company has required some serious repairs to be made.

The tons of material that have been moved in and out of the building on Lamoine Beach Road have pressed too hard against the back wall, and it has started to separate from the frost wall. Additionally, some of the trusses that hold

up the roof have cracked after loaders or dump trucks struck them.

The town has contacted design engineer Jim Kiser to develop a repair plan for the building. He was due to visit in mid-July. Selectmen also approved of encumbering funds from the Road budget for FY 2017 to pay for the repairs. It's hoped to get the facility back up to snuff before the plowing starts for the 2017/18 winter season.

## Shopping Bags Sell Quickly

(Lamoine) - The Conservation Commission's project to sell reusable shopping bags seems to be a hit. New Commission Chair Larissa Thomas turned in \$189 in late June from bag sales. They were first offered at the annual town meeting in March and on order from Thomas.

And, if living in one of Maine's most beautiful towns with a great school isn't enough of an enticement, while supplies last, people with young children who move into town will get a special book from the Lamoine Little Kids Group inside one of the reusable bags from the Conservation Commission.

The Commission ended up with a double order of bags after the manufacturer erred in the ordered color. They were supposed to be forest green but the first batch was a very bright green.

## Bank Grant Helps Grange

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Community Theater group should be able to offer year round productions thanks to a \$2,500 grant from Bangor Saving Bank.

The money will go toward insulation and ventilation of the Lamoine/Bayside Grange building. The check arrived in early July, and the grange/theater has already started to prepare the building for the project.

Pictured (l-r) David Sanderson (LCA), Sheryl Edgecomb (BSB), Cynthia Shoppe (BSB), Carol Korty (LCA), Honeybee Heyman (LCA President), Tom St. Claire (Grange Master), and Fred Socking (LCA).

(Photo by Georgianna Pulver)



## School TV System Nearly Complete

(Lamoine) - The company hired to provide video and audio feeds from the Lamoine Consolidated School has finally finished its job and the school is nearly ready to start producing shows from the building. A high tech issue kept the sound and pictures from coming out of a scheduling computer and going into the cable TV equipment transmission system. That part is now operational, but Charter (Spectrum) still has to provide the transmission channel.

The wiring project started over February vacation, and the camera and audio lines from the school gym to an equipment room behind the principal's office were completed. In fact, a Selectmen's meeting following a special town meeting on March 31st was recorded through the gym cameras. So was the town meeting, but an operator's error on the audio rendered it unlistenable.

Spectrum officials expect to install the new channel gear in the coming weeks.

## Zinke is New CTV Ops Manager

(Lamoine) - The town hall is pleased to welcome Justin Zinke aboard as the new Cable TV operations manager. Zinke, his wife Amy and their two daughters live on Walker Road. He works for Eastern Maine Health Care in the Information Technology department, so he's no stranger to computers and has learned quickly how to program the CTV system to air and record meetings at the town hall.

Zinke takes over from his neighbor, Melissa Johnson who stepped down in the spring after taking a new job that did not allow her the time to put into the CTV position. In addition to scheduling the meetings to air on the CTV Channel and on live streaming, Zinke hopes to produce local pre-recorded shows about the town in the

## Extremely Busy Quarter for Fire Department

(Lamoine) - The pagers for the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department activated 17 times during the 2nd quarter of 2017, marking one of the busiest quarters in the fire department's history when there were no major storms to generate multiple calls. Some of the fires were very serious—all of those were in other communities where Lamoine responded with mutual aid resources.

Among the serious fires was the blaze that destroyed the former Hilltop House restaurant that was being renovated to become the new China Hill restaurant. The call for Lamoine to assist came in at 11:00 at night, and many of the town's firefighters worked all night on the blaze, getting home just in time to shower up and go to work the next morning. A cause was never determined.

Lamoine assisted Surry and several other departments on a fatal fire on Route 172 on May 28th. Howard Young perished in the blaze; his sister Mildred was a long time tax assessor in Lamoine.

Two nights later, Lamoine and Trenton responded to a report of two recreational vehicles on fire off the Bar



Lamoine Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith supervises a hose crew as the former Hilltop House burned in Ellsworth

Harbor Road in Trenton. As firefighters from both departments arrived, fireworks stored inside one of the travel trailers were shooting off. It was determined that the occupants had used fireworks earlier in the evening and hot embers ignited a cardboard box they'd been stored in.

The department responded to three calls involving smoke and carbon monoxide alarms where there were no problems, stood by during fires in other communities twice, five motor vehicle accidents, one tree in the road that needed to be cut out, two assists to County Ambulance, two reported brush fires, and assist with an animal rescue.

## Three Graduate from Firefighter Academy

(Lamoine) - Three more Lamoine Volunteer Firefighters have graduated from the Hancock County Firefighters' Academy, a grueling winter and spring training program that fully trains volunteers to the national Firefighter I & II standard. Congratulations and many thanks go to **Sean McLaughlin, Robert Cooper** and **Nick Birdsall** who stuck out the course and were honored along with the rest of their class on June 17. Lamoine will share FF Birdsall with the Ellsworth Fire Department, as he has moved to Ellsworth during the course.

Sean McLaughlin has some experience on both sides of fires now—his Douglas Highway home burned several years ago. Cooper who is the son of Selectboard chair Jo Cooper joined the department last year and has become a very enthusiastic member.

## Appeals Board Gets Three Matters

(Lamoine) - A Marlboro Beach Road property owner has won approval from Lamoine's Board of Appeals to build an addition onto their home, though the existing house is too close to the road. Carol Mason applied to the Code Enforcement Officer for an addition that is set back 58-feet from the center line of Marlboro Beach Road, the same distance as the original home replaced many years ago. The question before the Appeals Board was whether the proposed addition would be allowed.

The Appeals Board ruled that the town's Building and Land Use ordinance (similar to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance) allows for a 30% expansion of a non-conforming structure, and the proposed addition was only a 28% expansion, and would therefore be allowed. A building permit was granted following the late May decision by the Appeals Board.

The Board also received two requests for variances. A Lamoine Beach Road couple seeking to build an addition to accommodate family members initially requested a road setback variance from Mill Road. Because the entrance to their property sits on Lamoine Beach Road, and a reconfiguration of the project provided adequate setback from the entrance side and to the abutting property lines, the variance request was rendered moot, and the building permit application was approved by Code Enforcement.

The other variance request concerns a theoretical dwelling off Shore Road on a lot that after a division contains less than 200-feet of road frontage. The Appeals Board referred the matter back to Code Enforcement to work with the property owner an ways to address that.

## Getting Ready to Celebrate our 150th

(Lamoine) - *Quiz Question:* Before we were Lamoine, what was our town called? *Choose One:* (a) South Ellsworth (b) West Hancock (c) East Trenton (d) Marlboro (see below for answer!)

The "Lamoine 150" Committee is collecting suggestions for a full year of celebration from September 2019 to August 2020. The town will turn 150 years old on February 11, 2020 and we want to showcase all parts of our town and its history and have our community think about where to go in the future.

The committee is meeting with town committees and groups to gather ideas and enlist help for the celebration. We hope to have at least one community-wide event each month, culminating in a full weekend in mid-August, 2020. Ideas range from reviving the Lamoine Town Band, an old-time baseball game, a town-wide scavenger hunt, basketball and cribbage tournaments, a play featuring Lamoine's past, and of course a Grand Parade and picnic.

The committee is co-chaired by Jo Cooper and Cynthia Donaldson and includes Miranda Engstrom, Nelia McIntire, Carol Duffy, Gordon Donaldson, and Honorary Member Marion McFarland. All ideas are welcome (email: town@lamoine-me.gov).

*Trick Answer!:* East Trenton (separated from Trenton in 1870) and Marlboro (separated from Hancock in 1933).



Captain Ed Farnsworth (l) and Jr. Firefighter Hayden Sattler (r) stand with Truck 405 at the annual MDI Touch A Truck event (photo courtesy of Hubene Brodie)

## Brownfields Declaration Application Denied

(Lamoine) - Selectmen rejected a request for a realtor representing a Raccoon Cove Road property to apply for a possible Brownfields Grant through the Environmental Protection Agency for a parcel that once contained an automobile graveyard. The roughly 3-and-a-half acre parcel still contains hundreds of tires removed from the vehicles that were crushed and hauled away several years ago by Pro Auto.

The owner requested the designation in order to conduct soil testing to determine whether the lot contains contamination.

The Brownfields program requires that the property have some sort of municipal interest, and Selectmen determined that there was no ownership interest and the land was not adjacent to any public lands, and therefore extremely unlikely to qualify for a Brownfields designation and potential grant.

## Conservation Commission Explores Garden Idea

By Anne Labossiere

(Hancock) - Nine Lamoiners participated in a visit on May 31st to the Hancock Community Gardens located on the Eastside Road in Hancock. This opportunity was provided by the Lamoine Conservation Commission, in collaboration with Renata Moise, Hancock Community Garden Committee member. If you are a person who keeps track of the weather, you will note that it was an overcast, showery and foggy day. Fortunately, the showers were few and far between and the enthusiasm was high.

Moise gave us an excellent overview of the development and maintenance of this garden. She fielded lots of questions as we strolled on the paths between garlic and lettuce beds bordered by the abundant Johnny Jump Ups. We checked out the solar water pump, the garden shed and the meadow where blueberries may be picked in season. Access to what will be called the Woods Trail is reached from this field. At the conclusion of our visit, LCC chair, Larry Libby presented Moise with an LCC mug and reusable cloth bag.

Will there be a community garden in Lamoine's future? If nothing else, hopefully people's awareness has been raised about the possibility of some sort of a community garden for our town.

## Animal Control More Than Just Stray Dogs

(Lamoine) - We are pretty much in awe of Animal Control Officer Shannon Byers. Beyond the typical lost and found dogs and stray cat calls, the last quarter saw some very tricky situations.

A Seal Point Road woman called to report a cat was trapped in the crawl space under her home. A firefighter crawled under the house in a very confined space, but could not find the animal. Byers set up a game camera and a trap, and was finally able to capture the feline which should survive.

Then, there was the rabbit roundup on Easter Weekend. The call went out for volunteers to help corral two domestic rabbits that had escaped from their cages on Mill Road and were ravaging local gardens. The group was able to capture one of the bunnies, and a couple days later the other rabbit was reunited with safe confinement. The animals will be well cared for.

## Heating Fuel Prices Set In

(Lamoine) - A three town bid for next winter's heating fuel needs resulted in very favorable prices. Lamoine's Selectmen voted to award the contract for both propane and #2 heating fuel to Acadia Fuel. The town will pay 81-cents a gallon for propane and \$1.48 per gallon for #2 heating oil.



Members of Lamoine's Conservation Commission visit the Hancock Community Garden in late May  
Diane Nicholls Photo

## Three Road Sections Paved

(Lamoine) - Thanks to low crude oil prices and competitive bidding, the price of pavement for 2017 came in well under \$70 per ton. When the bids were opened, B&B Paving of Hermon was awarded the town's paving contract for 2017, with Pavement Management Services providing contractual and project oversight.

Selectmen approved of the company coming to town in June and billing for the project after funds are available at the beginning of the fiscal year July 1st.

Prior to the paving project, a special town meeting approved additional funding from both the road fund and the town's surplus (undesignated fund balance) to pay for two sections of Shore

Road and the lower half of Mill Road. A calculation error at the annual town meeting had designated significantly less pavement than required to finish the project. Selectmen also approved of a project to excavate a section of the western side of Shore Road which tended to create a rut in the winter due to inadequately drained soil. Jay Fowler was able to get that site prepared just in time for the paving.

Following the paving, a good side lip was left on the road sides. The Road Commissioner pressed McMullen



The crew from B&B Paving in Hermon was the low bidder for the 2018 contract for Shore and Mill Roads.

Landscaping into action to place gravel along shoulders and driveways to ease the drop-off. Money was encumbered to pay for that project.

## Shorefront Pollution Issues Addressed

(Lamoine) - Maine's Department of Marine Resources has tried to identify the sources of pollution that has led to clam flats closures on Raccoon Cove and near Lamoine Beach. So far, there's no luck in determining where the coliform is being generated. Town plumbing inspector Michael Jordan has been assisting on one possibility, but tests show that previously though malfunctioning septic system on Ash Lane is working as designed. Jordan and local contractor Jay Fowler dug up the system and tested water coming from the residence and found that it was entering

the tank and flowing to the leach field properly.

Meanwhile, the town has repaired the dog waste stations at Lamoine Beach and Marlboro Beach. Facilities Maintenance Director Rick Gallegos reports that the stations are well utilized daily by park visitors. Some of the collection baskets had come off and disappeared over the winter. New, steel baskets are now in place and the town makes sure there are plenty of waste bags available for dog walkers to clean up after their animals.

## Cable TV Deal Nears

(Lamoine) - The town's technology committee entertained an offer from an Old Town company to explore means to extend the cable TV service to unserved areas of town. The Sewall Company also proposed involvement in renegotiating the Cable TV franchise agreement with Charter Communications (Spectrum).

The committee reviewed the proposal and recommends to the Selectmen that further consideration be given to the line expansion services which could potentially utilize a ConnectME grant in conjunction with private and public funding sources. The committee is also recommending that the franchise renewal with Charter/Spectrum continue to be worked out through the town attorney as planned. The committee is very near a finalized deal with the cable TV company, and the offer from Sewall seemed pricy.

## Security Camera Planned @ Park

(Lamoine) - The Parks Commission plans to install a security camera at Bloomfield Park to discourage activity at the park that should not be happening. The town has received reports of after hours parties and possible drug use at the park from neighboring property owners from time to time over the past two years. Occasionally drug paraphernalia has turned up on land around the park on Blunts Pond.

Selectmen set aside funding from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 to order a camouflaged camera. Parks Commissioners will install the camera and plan to place a sign at the park noting that video surveillance is in use. Selectmen expressed concern about protecting the camera itself from vandalism.

## Honors Graduates Recognized

(Lamoine) - The town had a relatively large number of students graduate from local high schools this year with honors. Selectmen in June honored **Robyn Henry** (John Bapst Memorial High School), **Ceileigh Weaver**, **Alexander Galeaz**, **Zachary Galeaz**, **Erin White** and **Sam Tehennepe** from Mt. Desert Island High School, along with **Brandon Cote**,

**Samantha Mason**, **Keith Eaton** and **Sam Alvarado** who graduated from Ellsworth High School in June. The Board Certificates of Commendation for each graduate which were hand delivered to their homes. The ten students represent the highest number of honor grads in several years.



## Little Children

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine's Little Children group continues to meet monthly. The Thursday playgroup for children (babies through preschoolers) and their care-givers meets on Thursday mornings from 9-11:00 at the Lamoine Baptist Church. Our library efforts have resulted in a preschool "niche" in the library and the possibility that the library **might** be open for a few hours on a Saturday during the summer. Amy Duym was instrumental in making sure a children's book (*I Know an old Woman Who Swallowed the Sea*) is part of the welcoming packet for families with children moving into Lamoine and the Lamoine Conservation Commission donated some of their bags for book bags.

For the past several months we have focused our attention on food insecurity. Hancock Grammar School nurse Michelle Dupuis attended our April meeting and shared their community backpack program. We are exploring the possibility of trying out a small "snack" program next October with the Lamoine School's involvement. We are mindful that this doesn't exactly fit our commitment to very young children, but reason it is a place to start addressing the needs of children in our community.

We welcome new members to our group and visitors to our meetings. If you'd like more information or have an idea to share call Cynthia Donaldson at 667-2382

## Thank You Girl Scouts



(Lamoine) - Three Girl Scout troops greatly assisted Lamoine during Memorial Day this year by placing flags on the markers of Veterans Graves at Forest Hill and East Lamoine Cemetery. Selectmen recognized the efforts of **Lily Philbrook**, **Casey Jordan**, **Olivia & Violet Davis**, **Betta & Elza Cahn**, **Paige Johnson**, **Lilly Ball**, **Joy Zinke** and **Amelia Ashmore** at their meeting on June 8th. The girl scouts have placed the flags for several years, and a new, tattered flag collection bin has been placed at the transfer station for proper flag retirement.

## Grange Scholarship

(Lamoine) Each year a scholarship is awarded to a resident of Lamoine who is seeking to further their educational opportunities. We are pleased to announce that the 2017 recipient for this award goes to Keith L. Eaton who is the son of Gary and Linda Eaton. Congratulations to Keith and his family.

Lamoine-Bayside Grange is located at Lamoine Corner and is proud to support our school and community.

## Recreation Fun Day a Big Hit

By Greg Stone, Rec Committee Chair

(Lamoine) - Nearly 100 people turned out for the 1st annual Family Fun Day held June 3rd at the Lamoine School grounds. Families enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of Pickleball, Kickball, Basketball and a hamburger BBQ. Leftover food was donated to the Emmaus Center in Ellsworth.

The event's purpose was to showcase the programs that the Recreation Department offers throughout the year. Youth programs include Soccer, Basketball, Cheering, Tumbling, Indoor Soccer and Kickball. Family programs include Slow Ride Sundays and Pickleball. And Pick-up Basketball is offered for adults.

The following summer programs are being offered FREE of charge at the Lamoine School grounds and outdoor basketball court:

- July 2 - Aug. 26 every Sunday: Adult Pick-up Basketball at 5:00 pm
- July 9 - Aug. 20 every Sunday: Family Slow Ride Bicycling. Guided tours will be available on July 9, 30 and Aug. 20 at 11:30 am. For those wishing to ride independently, tour maps will be kept in a box by the "Slow Ride" banner in front of the school and route signs will be placed along the roadsides throughout the summer.
- July 11 - August 15 every Tuesday: Youth Basketball for those entering 5th -9th grade from 5:00-6:00 pm. Family Kickball from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Registration forms for Youth Basketball and Kickball will be at the program. No pre-registration required. Adult supervision for all Youth activities is required. Inclement weather cancellation notices will be posted on the Lamoine Facebook page.



Lamoine's first Family Fun Day on June 3rd.

Greg Stone Photo

## Scholarships Awarded

(Lamoine) - A scholarship fund established by the late Allen and Leurene Hodgkins will distribute \$24,970 to various colleges to assist with tuition and other college expenses for 11 Lamoine students in the coming year. The Hodgkins Scholarship Committee reviewed applications, and funded all 11 at the rate of \$2,270 per student.

Applications are due annually by June 1st. The Maine Community Foundation Administers the fund based on the recommendation of the Selectmen's subcommittee.



Firefighters John Smith (l) and Rick Martens (r) retrieve a small drone that managed to land upside down on the roof at the Lamoine Consolidated School

- Open Pickleball: The Pickleball net, equipment and rules will remain at the outdoor basketball court throughout the summer. Participants are asked to put all equipment away upon completion of play.
- Fall Youth Soccer registration for Pre K - 5th grade will be held during the school's Open House in the Fall.

For suggestions for additional programs and interest in becoming a volunteer coach for the Youth Programs, call Greg Stone at 667-8103.

## Eagle Scout Matt Curtis Honored

(Lamoine) - It's been a few years since Lamoine has been able to celebrate one of it's young men reaching the pinnacle of Boy Scouting. Matthew Curtis of Asa's Lane received his Eagle Scout badge in early June of this year in a ceremony held at the Lamoine Consolidated School. Curtis worked hard to revitalize a trail in the Town of Hancock as his Eagle project. He is the son of Stacey Curtis and Debi Pickard and turns 18 this summer.

# July 2017 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please consult the town's website for an up to date meeting schedule ( <a href="http://www.lamoine-me.gov">www.lamoine-me.gov</a> )						1-Town Office open 8-noon
2	3-6:30 Board of Appeals	4-Town Office Closed	5	6-6:30 PM Comprehensive Plan	7	8
9	10—6:30 Planning Board	11—11:30 AM Technology Cmte.	12-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	13—4PM Comprehensive Plan	14	15-9AM Board of Assessors
16	17	18	19-5PM Lamoine 150	20—7PM Board of Selectmen	21	22
23	24	25—Office closed at lunch	26	27	28	29-Town Office open 8-noon
30	31	The town office is closed at lunch July 5-7 due to a vacation and on July 25 due to a League of Towns meeting				

# August 2017 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The office will be closed at lunch August 9-11 and August 15 for training.		1	2	3-7PM Board of Selectmen	4	5-Town Office open 8-noon
6	7-7PM Planning Board	8	9—7PM Conservation Cmsn.	10	11	12
13	14	15—6:30 PM Board of Appeals	16	17	18-5PM Fire Department Auction	19
20	21	22	23	24-6:30 Comprehensive Planning	25	26-Town Office open 8-noon
27	28	29-5:30 PM Shore Access Subcommittee	30—First student day of school	31	Selectmen will individual sign expenditure warrants during the month, but not hold a regular meeting.	

# September 2017 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please consult the town's website for an up to date calendar of events.					1	2—Town Office open 8-noon
3	4-Town Office closed (Labor Day)	5	6	7 -7PM Board of Selectmen	8	9
10	11—7PM Planning Board	12	13—7PM Conservation Cmsn.	14—3PM Planning Board Site Visit (MacQuinn pit)	15	16
17	18	19	20	21—7PM Board of Selectmen	22	23
24	25	26	27—6:30 PM Public Hearing (MacQuinn pit@ school)	28-6:30 PM Public Hearing (MacQuinn pit@ school, if needed)	29	30—Town Office open 8-noon

**The Lamoine Quarterly**  
**July 2017**

Inside this issue:

- 1 Tax Rate Up
- 1 Gift Cards Troubling
- 2 Sign Sought
- 3 Assessor Resigns
- 4 Salt/Sand Shed Repair
- 5 Three Firefighter Grads
- 6 Community Garden
- 6 Paving Project Done
- 7 Honor Grads Galore
- 7 Scouts Recognized

*And Much, Much More*



Town of Lamoine  
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