

Proposed Gravel Mining Expansion Project Draws Crowd



The gym at the Lamoine Consolidated School was packed with people waiting to let their opinions be known about a proposed gravel mining expansion by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. (Photo from Lamoine CTV)

(Lamoine) - A lot of strong opinions about a proposed enlargement of a gravel mining operation will have to wait until November. Nevertheless, dozens of people, most of them Lamoine residents, attended a late September public hearing at the Lamoine Consolidated School gym on the proposal from Harold MacQuinn,

Inc. A large number of people submitted written comments prior to the hearing via e-mail. A vast majority of the e-mailed comments opposed the proposed expansion.

The hearing began with a very lengthy presentation by attorney Ed Bearor and surveyor Steve Salsbury who represent the MacQuinn Corporation, outlining the submission and how the application attempts to comply with both the Site Plan Review and Gravel ordinances. The Planning Board then turned to questions from the public about the proposed expansion. Some of the questioning involved response should a petroleum spill occur in the pit that contaminates the aquifer that runs under the gravel and supplies drinking water to the Cold Spring Water Company.

The hearing was scheduled to run three hours. It will take longer, and a plan to continue the next evening fell through when some Planning Board members were

unavailable the next evening. The Planning Board hearing the application has subsequently continued the hearing until Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the school gym.

This is the second time the proposal has come before the Planning Board. In 2012 and 2013 the board followed a similar hearing process and ended up rejecting the proposal. That rejection was challenged by attorneys for MacQuinn. The town and MacQuinn reached an out of court settlement to re-hear the application with different Planning Board members hearing the latest submission. Chairing the panel on the current proposal is Planning Board vice chair Don Bamman. Perry Fowler will chair that November 9th session which will be recorded for the CTV and streaming channels. More written testimony has arrived after the first hearing date.

Once the hearing concludes on November 9th, the Planning Board plans to convene on Tuesday, November 14th to deliberate on the application.

Town Names Albright New Code Officer

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has agreed to hire former Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright to the post she held here between 1996 and 2000. Ms. Albright, who lives in Otis, will assume the post of CEO And Local Plumbing Inspector on November 1st. Albright is currently the CEO/LPI for the towns of Gouldsboro, Sullivan, Sorrento, Waltham, Amherst, Aurora and Great Pond. She plans to be in the town office on Wednesday for the entire day.

With the recent influx of Code Enforcement matters ranging from permit applications to complaints to violations, and an extended deadline to become

certified nearly expired, Lamoine Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos has opted to step aside. Gallegos also serves the town as the facilities maintenance director and will continue in that capacity.

A search committee consisting of Selectmen Gary McFarland and Kathleen Rybarz, Planning Board Chair John Holt and Assessor Terry Towne conducted interviews with candidates for the position and unanimously endorsed Albright, and the full Board of Selectmen agreed to appoint her.

Albright is fully certified by the State of Maine and says she's excited to return to Lamoine.

New Sign Due in Early October

(Lamoine) - The new electronic sign funded by voters at the March 2017 town meeting should materialize shortly after Columbus Day. The Selectmen accepted a bid from NeoKraft, a sign company based in Lewiston. A Saco based business has constructed the electronic portion of the sign. Two other companies submitted proposals which significantly exceeded the budget.

Local electrician Arthur Ashmore has run a power line to the new sign which will be installed next to the current sign, the top part which will be utilized above the electronic sign. The sign is controlled by computer through internet access, and can be changed by authorized users from literally anywhere there is an internet connection.

Game Warden Frees Porcupine Goalie

(Lamoine) - It was a perplexing call from Lamoine Consolidated School's Administrative Assistant Betty Eaton. She reported a porcupine was trapped in the netting of one of the soccer goals in the athletic fields behind the school. The advice from the town office was the typical given in wildlife situations, contact the Maine Warden Service. She did, and Warden Chris Sargent responded very quickly.

Deftly wielding a sharp knife, Sargent carefully went about cutting away the netting strings that had snagged the unwitting goalie. Porcupines are in plentiful supply around town, and while they are not really known for blazing speed (this one would not be confused with Ronaldo or Pele either), it scampered into the woods pretty quickly once Warden Sargent untangled it.

Some school staff and students watched, rather captivated by the prickly, four legged soccer player. It looked a bit forlorn as it was not able to free itself from the netting. To the best of anyone's knowledge, it has not come back for another match on the soccer pitch, but deer are often spotted during quiet times no the ballfields, especially at night. The school thanked Warden Sargent for his quick response and patient skill for freeing up the quilled goalie.

(Photo by Betty Eaton)



Volunteers Clean Up the Coast

By Larissa Thomas, Conservation Cmsn

(Lamoine) - As part of Maine Coastweek, the Lamoine Conservation Commission organized a series of volunteer crews to conduct coastal cleanups around town on September 16 and 23 (see attached photos). Four teams with a total of 21 energetic volunteers scoured about 5 miles of shoreline, filling 25 bags with trash and recyclables. The crews worked at the head of the Skillings River around Kilkenny Cove, on two sections of the Skillings River near Seal Point and Mosely Point, and at the Lamoine State Park. These efforts resulted in approximately 245 pounds of mostly plastic being removed from the marine ecosystem including approximately 130 yards of rope that would present an entanglement hazard for whales, and turtles. Plastics that end up in the oceans fragment into smaller that are ingested by birds, fish, and other creatures. Hats off to the volunteers who helped combat this environmental threat. The Conservation



A kayak crew retrieved lots of trash at the high tide line

Commission will organize crews for next year's clean-up, but no need to wait—everyone can pick up trash whenever they find it. The amount of trash and lost fishing gear collected, seemed to represent less volume than what we've seen in the past two years. Those interested in worldwide trends can go to the Ocean Conservancy's website to see the data tabulated on materials collected from Maine and cleanups around the world: <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/annual-data-release/>

Consulting Company Surveying Broadband

(Lamoine) - An Old Town based engineering firm is in the process of analyzing just where cable TV lines and other broadband services are offered in Lamoine. Selectmen approved a contract with the Joseph Sewall Corporation to map out exactly where high speed internet is offered, and more importantly, where it is not.

Consultant Michael Edgecomb is conducting the survey in early October. After the results are analyzed, the company will help prepare a grant application with the ConnectME agency which offers state assistance with

improving broadband service. Many Maine communities have undertaken similar efforts.

Broadband opportunities are seen as an economic development issue. The lack of broadband service can be a deterrent to housing.

The town's technology committee discussed the proposal and made no recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, as members were split on whether the study would be effective. The study and related activity will be funded from the Cable TV fund.

Water Re-Test Comes Back Clean

(Lamoine) - The extremely dry weather is likely behind water testing results that raised a red flag with Lamoine's Planning Board. Annually, licensed gravel pits perform water quality testing to make sure that excavation is not causing a negative impact on ground water. SW Cole conducted water sampling at two pits in East Lamoine, one operated by John W. Goodwin Jr. and the other operated by Doug Gott & Sons, both headquartered in Southwest Harbor. Water samples from a few of the many monitoring wells in the pits showed a detectible level of EPH, a hydro carbon compound associated with fuels such as diesel or grease. The minimum level for detection is 100 ug/L (micrograms per liter), and the drinking water standard is 200 ug/L. The tests on the Gott well showed 136 ug/L which is far below the standard that would make the water dangerous to drink.

SW Cole reported the Goodwin pit results were consider to not be very reliable because of a possible error with the test. The company plans to retest the wells after some significant rain brings water levels up higher.

Planning Board chair John Holt noted the issue at the September Planning Board meeting, saying it appears to be the first sign of something. Just what that

something is has yet to be determined. The report from the engineers who conducted the groundwater study said there was no evidence of any nearby source of petroleum, and no evidence of tampering with the wells or a spill in the pits. The testing company said it could be a one time event, but if there are increasing levels of the compounds found, it could be a source of concern that requires increased monitoring.

The town's gravel ordinance requires the water quality testing, but there are no provisions in the ordinance for action to take should the water quality tests show ground water contamination. The town would likely contact the Department of Environmental Protection should further testing reveal increased levels of chemicals in the tested water.

SW Cole retested the wells in the Gott pit in September and just before publication time, agent Steve Salsbury sent a new report to the town. The latest testing yielded no EPH levels of any sort detected in the new round of well testing. Copies of that report were distributed electronically to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen in early October. It's not known at press time when the Goodwin pit re-sampling will take place.

Selectmen Agree to Test Swimming Spot Water

(Lamoine) - The water at Blunt's Pond is very clear, and the beach area at Bloomfield Park is pretty popular with residents looking to take a dip on a hot summer day. Carol Korty is one of those who utilizes the shallow, cool water, but questioned the Board of Selectmen whether it was safe to do so, questioning the water quality. The Board agreed to test the water to determine if dangerous bacteria is present, and authorized purchase of a relatively inexpensive water testing kit. Once water is collected, a chemical reaction will determine whether bacteria and E-coli are present in amounts that are considered safe or not. Selectman Bob Christie agreed to collect the water sample.

No reports of health issues have ever emanated from Blunt's Pond, and there has not been any algae bloom on the pond in the past that the town is aware of. It's believed the pond is spring fed, but the source of water has never been confirmed.

Should the water test come back with high bacteria or E-coli, it's not clear what the next appropriate step would be for town officials.



A mallard plies the waters of Blunt's Pond. A large variety of wildlife shares the pond with swimmers and non-motorized watercraft.

Police Patrol Discussed

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has sent an inquiry to the Hancock County Sheriff's Department regarding increased police patrol coverage in town. Lamoine does not employ its own police force, instead relying on the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and Maine State Police to respond to emergency calls when needed.

Noting increased signs of drug related activity, especially around Bloomfield and Lamoine Beach Park, Selectmen have inquired about possible patrol options. Chief Deputy Patrick Kane replied back that the Hancock S.O. provides patrol contracts to Tremont, Stonington, Castine, Brooklin and Sorrento. Contracts similar to Tremont and Stonington would cost Lamoine up to \$100-thousand dollars per year.

Selectmen plan to discuss the need and desire for an increased police presence in town, noting that Lamoine's geography creates a pretty good advantage with headquarters for both police agencies one town away.

Appeals Board Requests Comment on New Ordinance

(Lamoine) - Lamoine has a fair number of ordinances that regulate various activities in town ranging from building, activities in the Shoreland Zone, gravel mining and the like. At last count a couple of dozen ordinances were in effect, and most of them contain an appeal provision for decisions that applicants or alleged violators might not agree with. Each ordinance seems to deal with an appeal process in a different manner, and that presents a challenge to the town's Board of Appeals.

For about 3-years now the Appeals Board has been working on yet another ordinance to have a single set of rules on how to deal with appeals and variance requests, instead of the hodge podge of rules in each of the ordinances. A draft of the new ordinance is about to get reviews from the various town boards for comment before final submission to the Board of Selectmen for possible inclusion on the town meeting warrant in March.

The proposed ordinance outlines how the Appeals Board is appointed, addresses conflicts of interest among board members, what issues may come before the Appeals Board, and how meetings are scheduled and advertised. The ordinance also includes a recent state law change to allow for variances that will assist those who may be disabled.

The ordinance also lays out how to appeal decisions rendered by the Board of Appeals (they could be appealed to Maine Superior Court). It would also supersede the appeals sections of all of the town's current ordinances.

The proposed ordinance also provides for some flexibility for the Board of Appeals as it determines how best to adjudicate an appeal. Some ordinances require a de novo hearing (meaning the Appeals Board starts from the very beginning of the application process), others allow for an administrative hearing (the Appeals Board hears just those areas under contention). The new ordinance allows the Board of Appeals to decide which type of hearing is appropriate.

The draft ordinance will be posted on the town's website for comment through mid-November.

Planning Board Officers Chosen

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board has three selected officers from among the board members; Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. All are key roles, but the secretary's job is very important when it comes to maintaining a written record of what took place at the meetings.

Alternate member Steve Gabel-Richards has agreed to take over the secretary's role for the board. Gabel-Richards is also the newest board member. He's a retired school teacher, and has found video recordings of the meetings helpful when compiling the minutes.

Planning Board Renews Pit, Approves Road

(Lamoine) - The town's Planning Board has a very good handle on analyzing and processing gravel permit requests. Chair John Holt estimates that he's voted on more than 50-such applications during the two terms he's served on the board, and with only two notable exceptions, they've received approval. And, with an ordinance change that disallows new gravel mines in the Rural and Agricultural Zone, it's likely that all the future permit applications will be renewals of existing permits, though the process remains the same. Holt said the expectations of applicants are well laid out, and most of the applications are complete with the information required to get to a public hearing and vote in relatively short order.

The Planning Board swiftly approved another 3-year permit for RF Jordan on land located between Route 184, Walker Road and Mill Road. Very little public comment came in, and there have been no reported issues at the pit.

The Planning Board also approved a Site Plan Review permit for Doug Gott & Sons which has expanded a logging road off Lamoine Beach Road, slightly northwest of Lamoine State Park. The town office started receiving calls when numerous dump trucks started hauling in material to expand the road. The company submitted the Site Plan Review Application shortly thereafter when the road size was going to require the permit. The company says it plans to cut more lumber on the lot.

Planning Board Floats Road Front Change

(Lamoine) - For at least the past 25-years, Lamoine's Building and Land Use ordinance has required 200-feet of road frontage in order to place a building on a lot. That may have taken a lot of large, skinny tracts of land out of the running for housing. At least two property owners recently ran into road blocks because of the road frontage requirement.

That's behind one of the proposed changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance that the Planning Board has placed before the Board of Selectmen for comment. The new table of land uses includes a change requiring 200-feet of road frontage only if a building is going to be located within 200-feet of the road entrance. Should a proposed structure be located greater than 200-feet from the road entrance, that frontage requirement is waived.

The other major change also has to do with how a building is situated on a lot. The current ordinance requires a setback of 50-feet from the road right of way. The proposed change would require a road setback of 75-feet from the center of the road. Few know where the true edge of the right of way is located, while the center of the road is easily ascertained. Most roads in Lamoine are a 3-rod width (49.5 feet). The change would essentially maintain that 50-right of way setback, but have a defined point from which to measure the setback.

If the Selectmen give the OK to the proposed changes, the Planning Board would conduct a public hearing prior to a final submission to the Selectmen to place the amendment on the town meeting warrant in March.

Summer Months Busy for Permits

(Lamoine) - There is plenty of building taking place in Lamoine, as Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos issued 28-permits between the first of July and the end of September.

Nbr.	Name	Project
30	Labossiere, A	Deck
31	Wardman, S.	Garage
32	Merrick, P	Car Port
33	Wardman, S.	Garage
34	Engelhard, B.	Shed
35	Lee, D	Mobile Home
36	Upson, L.	Addition
37	Rosa, L.	Roofed Deck
38	Collier, James	Residence
39	True, Kathryn	Garage
40	Richardson, C.	Deck
41	Sperry, J	Deck
42	Olencki, K.	Mobile Home
43	Stoll, Joshup	Residence/Barn
44	Wellman, C.	Addition
45	Sanborn, R.	Shed
46	Mason, C.	Expansion
47	Phelps, C.	Shed
48	Whitener, W.	Shed
49	Broughman Bldrs	Residence

50	Colby, J.	Mobile Home
51	Evans, R.	Shed
52	Frost, T.	Deck
53	Berk, J.	Deck
54	Wood, N.	Shed
55	Staples, F.	Barn
56	Legere, D.	Boat Rack
57	Holt, Charles	Residence

The revenue generated from the building permits was \$2,119 for the quarter.

Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan issued 23 permits during the quarter, generating \$2,245 in net fees to the town. They included 13 internal plumbing and / or hookup to existing septic system permits, 8 septic systems, and two replacement septic systems.

The number of building permits issued was 11% greater than 2015 through the first three quarters of the year.

The number of plumbing permits for the year is up 34% compared to the first three quarters of 2016 (39 permits compared to 29).

As a reminder, all structures greater than 100-square feet require a building permit, and all structures, regardless of size, if located within 250-feet of the high water mark in the Shoreland Zone must also obtain a permit prior to construction.

Equipment Failure Knocks Out CTV

(Lamoine) - The video switching device that controls the cable TV channel inside the town hall started showing signs of fatigue during a couple of Board of Selectmen meetings when it shut down without warning. A look at the operating log for the device showed that it overheated, and a cooling fan inside the device was not functioning properly. That was a possible indication that the \$10,000 unit was quite dusty, and indeed, it was. When the dust got blown out of the highly

sophisticated computer, and it was placed back in the equipment rack, it would no longer turn on.

A call to the equipment manufacturer indicated it was likely the power supply inside the unit, and the only way to repair it was to ship it to Michigan. The failure occurred in late September, and the company was indeed able to repair it. The switcher (called a Nexus) was expected to be back in business the week of October 9th.

Familiar Face Fills in at Xfr Station

(Lamoine) - Many thanks to former transfer station manager Bill Fennelly for filling in for a few weeks at the facility in the late summer. Fennelly subbed for Chris Meyer who took a short leave of absence to take care of some health issues. During his tenure, Fennelly gave the facility an excellent cleanup along with making sure things were open on time.

Broken Trusses Inside Salt Sand Shed to be Repaired

(Lamoine) - An insurance inspection earlier in the year revealed a few of the roof trusses inside the town's salt sand storage shed had cracked and were in need of repairs. The Selectmen agreed to contact the original design engineer, Jim Kiser to come up with a plan to make the repairs. He had to call in a specializing engineering firm and a final design was released in late September.

The repairs will utilize metal braces which should greatly improve the strength on the broken trusses. Plow contractor Richard McMullen should get the repairs done before he has to load up the salt/sand mix into the trucks for the winter. A bow in the rear wall of the garage was also noted, but engineer Kiser recommended no action for now.



Veterans' Memorial Bench Breaks

(Lamoine) - A nudge with a lawn mower shifted one of the two benches at the Veterans' Memorial at the Lamoine Town Hall just enough that the seat fell down, and it cracked in half. The town's mowing contractor has hauled the bench to Weininger Monuments in Cherryfield where a replacement seat will be crafted. The mishap occurred in August. It is hoped that the seat will be back in place in time for Veterans' Day.

Gravel Pit Restoration Monitored

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board has kept its eyes on three gravel pits to make sure restoration efforts are successfully achieved. The pit owners have cooperated well with replanting efforts, though they didn't succeed at first.

Doug Gott & Sons, Inc. opted to restore the so-called Little B&H Pit off Douglas Highway in North Lamoine. The Gravel Ordinance requires restoration be accomplished within a year of the pit's closure according to plans filed at the last permit. When the pit was inspected for reclamation progress at first, the Code Enforcement Officer observed pressure treated lumber and oriented strand board (OSB) which contain chemicals that could be harmful to water. After orders to remove the materials and plant the graded pit area with growing vegetation, the owners submitted an affidavit saying they'd removed the material prior to final covering. The town will inspect the area in another year to ensure that the vegetation remains alive.

RE Jordan and Sons was supposed to restore part of the former King/Zerrien pit south of the Town Hall on Douglas

Highway. The initial planting did not germinate, thanks in part to the dry spring and an attempt to plant on top of gravel without topsoil. Owner Pat Jordan, when informed of the restoration failure and a stop work order from the Code Enforcement Officer replanted the area to be restored, after putting down a layer of topsoil that was more conducive to growth. An inspection in late summer confirmed growth was taking place.

Harold MacQuinn, Inc. was to have restored a large area of the so-called Asher Pit, near Orchard Lane. Initial planting efforts also failed, and the company opted to use a higher grade of hydro-seeding to accomplish restoration. The town will inspect that area to be restored during the fall to ensure that the vegetation is growing.

In recent years, operators have closed down operations at two other gravel pits in town, which means they will have to be restored by grading the pit walls to a 3:1 slope, and replanting the excavated areas as shown on restoration plans filed when the gravel removal operations were last permitted.

Rec Soccer Program Signals Growth

(Lamoine) - The first weekend of youth soccer for 2017 got off to a bit of a rocky start, but the town's Recreation Committee is working to make sure it and other programs run more smoothly. Rec Committee chair Greg Stone was out of town for the start of the season and former committee member Elie Khoury stepped down from the committee when his employer moved him to Virginia. The soccer equipment was locked in the town's

Lamoine Beach Road storage garage, and no one was in town that weekend to access the garage.

Soccer coach Nicole Chan did some scrambling and got enough soccer balls together to get through the first week. She, Stone and the Selectmen met the next week to talk about some of the issues facing the program, and the Rec Committee addressed many of those at a meeting the week after. Rec Committee member Jason Trenholm went above and beyond to help take make sure the paperwork was in order and to make sure there was access to the soccer equipment needed. Chan has been appointed to the Rec Committee which is back up to full strength. The committee is always looking for volunteer coaches and support staff.



Despite a very dry summer, it seemed to be a very bountiful hay crop at the Pinkham fields this year. There was just one mowing, though—usually the fields are mowed a couple times in the summer.

Fire Department to Acquire Ladder Truck

(Lamoine) - Fire Chief George “Skip” Smith says the time has come for Lamoine’s volunteer firefighters to have a ladder truck at their immediate disposal. The fire department corporation has put a down payment on a 1997 Smeal Quint truck currently owned



Ellsworth firefighter Bobby Dorr inspects the ladder of the Squamish BC truck the Lamoine VFD has agreed to purchase.

by Squamish British Columbia. The town meeting in March 2018 will be asked to fund the remainder of the \$108,700 purchase. This will be the first ever ladder truck for the department.

The “new” truck will be available in about a year, as the BC department will be putting a new, million dollar ladder truck into service about this time next year. It has a 75-foot ladder and a 2,000 gallons per minute pump. The department members started talking about the need for a ladder earlier this year, and Capt. Ed Farnsworth started looking. A broker in Alabama had the truck up for sale for a list price of \$150,000, which the

fire chief negotiated significantly lower. Farnsworth, Assistant Chief Engineer Maury Oliver and Ellsworth Fire Captain Bobby Dorr flew to Vancouver to inspect the truck and reported that it was in excellent condition, has very low mileage, and low hours of use on the pump and ladder.

The department voted to fund the 10% down payment, and Chief Smith met with the Board of Selectmen who authorized the payment and will place the purchase on the town meeting warrant in March. The Chief will meet with the budget committee to determine the best way to fund the purchase.

Fire Department Historically Busy Quarter

(Lamoine) - The pagers for members of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department activated 28 times between July 1 and September 30th, making it one of the busiest three months in the department’s history. Through the first three quarters of 2017 the fire department has responded to 66 calls, up 15% from 2016 and 69% from the average of the past 7-years. The department is on pace to eclipse last year’s record 73 runs for a year.

The most serious calls were to Ellsworth for assistance with house fires, one on Red Bridge Road and one on the Mariaville Road. Lamoine responded with automatic mutual aid with a tanker truck, a

pumper truck and interior attack crews to assist.

In town, the most serious call resulted in two responses on Mill Road to an unattended woods fire. The initial call on August 4th saw some sort of fire spread to about a half acres of tree covered land. It took about two hours to put that out, but it rekindled a week later after burning underground.

The Department also responded to a chimney fire on Seal Point Road that was quickly controlled, and to six motor vehicle accidents in both Lamoine and Trenton. Several other calls involved assistance to other fire agencies.

Clam Chowder Dinner Postponed

(Lamoine) - One of the great social events of late October is the Fire Department’s Clam Chowder Dinner. This year’s event has been postponed as chef David Herrick and his wife Julie were not available to do all that they do to make sure the food is all set for the event.

The Fire Department may hold a winter time supper instead, but no firm plans have been made. The dinner has been a big hit with residents, many of whom donate food dishes and ingredients to make the chowder. It has also been a fairly successful fund raiser for the department.

FD Auction a Huge Success

(Lamoine) - The secret to a successful auction for the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department just might be rain. The event in mid-August fell on one of the very few rainy nights of the summer, and the Lamoine Consolidated School gym was packed with bidders.

It also helped to have a lot of good donated items on hand to auction off. Among the items were many donated by former School Committee member Anne Gommel who is preparing to relocate.

There was a new auctioneer this year (your Lamoine Quarterly writer town administrator and Deputy Fire Chief, Stu Marckoon), and for three hours the bidding was hot and heavy.

When all was totaled up, the department came away with a net profit of about \$11,000, a record for the auction now in its 20th year.

Deputy Animal Control Officer Appointed

(Lamoine) - The director of the SPCA shelter in Trenton has agreed to back up Lamoine’s Animal Control Officer (ACO) Shannon Byers. Selectmen appointed Diana De Los Santos as the Deputy Animal Control Officer while Byers and her husband David attend to a serious health matter he faces in Boston.

Mrs. De Los Santos is the Animal Control Officer in Bar Harbor and also the backup for the Town of Trenton. Animal control complaints should be reported to the Lamoine Town Office during regular business hours. After hours complaints can be reported to the Administrative Assistant’s cell phone at 207-266-0353. Town staff will initially try to resolve complaints as soon as possible and notify the Deputy ACO as needed.

It’s expected the Byers will be tied up for nearly 2-months as he undergoes treatment in Boston. A Go Fund Me page has been started to assist with living expenses while the couple stays in Boston. Many volunteers have offered to help care for their animals at their Mill Road home.

Photo Courtesy of Kathy McGlinchey



Third and fourth graders at Lamoine Consolidated School received dictionaries that were donated by the Lamoine-Bayside Grange as part of their annual Dictionary Project. The dictionaries were presented by Grange members Sharon St. Claire and Kathy McGlinchey. This year, the dictionaries were given in memory of longtime Grange Secretary/Treasurer Yvonne Brann. The children learned about the history and mission of the Grange, and had fun finding word definitions in their new resource.

Selectmen Adopt Tax Payment Policy

(Lamoine) - On two occasions in June, taxpayers who owed multiple years of unpaid property taxes made a payment after receiving a 30-day notice of unpaid taxes for the 2016/17 property tax season. While that saved a significant amount of money on lien fees for that year's taxes, it did not erase tax liens that were filed for the previous tax year.

In August, the Board of Selectmen adopted what's referred to in the tax collection business as a 906 policy. That refers to Title 36, section 906 in state law which directs a community's tax collector to apply payments to the oldest outstanding tax balance.

Taxpayers are still able to designate if they wish to have a payment applied to a particular tax debt if they desire. The policy gives guidance to the tax collector for those payments received without a particular designation.

Town Meeting 2018 Dates Set

(Lamoine) - The annual town meeting in Lamoine will take place on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 (municipal officer elections) and March 7, 2018 (Open Town Meeting). Selectmen set the date to coincide with the same timeframe as the past several years. Selectmen signed the order setting the annual meeting dates in early September.

The reason for settling on a date so far in advance has to do with a newly revised state law that increases the time frame to make nomination papers available to candidates who desire to be listed on the ballot. Many municipalities utilize the ballot scanning machines to conduct town elections, and the lead time to prepare special ballots that the machines can read made it necessary to push out the nomination process time. Lamoine does not utilize the machine for town elections (at this time), opting instead to hand count municipal ballots. There is a significant cost to having machine ballots generated

and printed, so the town opts to print the ballots in house and have the ballot clerks count them by hand.

To be elected in March are two members of the Board of Selectmen. The seats are currently held by Gary McFarland and Jo Cooper. A member of the Board of Assessors will also be elected, filling a vacancy caused by a resignation earlier this year, and a school committee member will also be elected. That seat is currently filled by Michael Brann.

Nomination papers will become available on November 26, 2017 (the day after Thanksgiving) from the town clerk's office. Candidates who wish to appear on the ballot must collect at least 25 signatures from registered voters and no more than 75 signatures, and return those to the town clerk's office no later than January 5, 2018. Absentee ballots will become available no later than February 4, 2018.

Comprehensive Planning Draft Goals Open House set for November 18th

The Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee (LCPC) will host a Community Open House to present proposed goals for the town over the next 10-20 years.

The LCPC hopes to have a draft of the Vision Statement for the Town, as well as a summary of Goals and Policies in all the topics required by the State to be included in a Comprehensive Plan, available three to four weeks prior to the Community Open House.

The Open House will be at the Lamoine Consolidated School on Saturday

November 18th from 10 to 2, with people spending as much or as little time as they want learning about the proposals. Members of the LCPC will be available to discuss the draft conclusions and recommendations and to record reactions and comments.

Refreshments will be available. Anyone who is willing to help with organizing refreshments, please call (667-6564) or e-mail Fred Stocking (fredstocking@roadrunner.com).

Town Audit Expected Soon

(Lamoine) - The auditing crew from James Wadman's office has finished pouring over the town books and is working to finish up with the school department in order to produce the annual audit report. Preliminary closing balances (unaudited) show the town with a very healthy undesignated fund balance (surplus) of more than \$568,000. The long term goal has been to end the year with at least \$300,000 in surplus. That amount will likely change, depending on the closing entries to the school department budget and other internal fund adjustments.

Some of the designated fund balances are also very healthy. The Road Fund ended the fiscal year with roughly \$167,000. The 2017/18 town budget has utilized \$117,000 from that balance to pay for the paving projects for the summer of 2017. The undesignated fund balance utilized \$97,250 for the 2017/18 municipal budget.

Two factors favorably affected the town's fund balances; higher than expected revenue and lower than budget costs. For example, the town budgeted \$300,000 in automobile excise taxes for the 2016/17 year. It brought in more than \$375,000, which closes into the general undesignated fund. The road and paving budgets for roughly \$268,000 actually cost only about \$250,000, with the remainder closing into the road fund.

The fund balances provide a source of revenue to help offset future budgets. The town's budget committee will consider how much existing fund use is appropriate to offset the 2018/19 budget in the coming months.

Tax Liens Filed In July

(Lamoine) - Town tax collector Jennifer Kovacs signed 68 tax liens in late July which were subsequently filed at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds. The total of the unpaid 2016/17 property taxes was \$65,596, ranging from a low of about \$102 to a high of \$4,816.

By the end of September the unpaid tax amount had dropped to \$49,058, representing collection of \$16,538 in the first quarter of 2017/18.

All those with unpaid taxes received a 30-day notice that a lien would be filed. The liens mature 18-months from the date of filing, meaning the town takes ownership if the liens remain unpaid and proper notification is made.

Retired Flags Collected

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's local girl scout troops have taken on a wide ranging project having to do with proper display of the American flag. Users of the Lamoine Transfer Station will notice a used flag collection box at the facility. A similar box is under construction for the town hall.

Tattered flags may be disposed of at either location and the scouts will collect and properly dispose of them. The town will be going through the flags that are displayed on utility poles through the summer and gathering up those that require disposal. The Board of Selectmen honored the scouts for their efforts at placing flags at Veterans' graves on Memorial Day.

Marlboro Beach Purchase Effort Continues

(Lamoine) - The Frenchman Bay Conservancy is nearing its goal to raise funds to purchase Marlboro Beach. Executive Director Aaron Dority says they are within \$18,000 of the goal, and through October, any donations will be matched dollar for dollar. Donations can be made on the Frenchman Bay Conservancy website by clicking the "Donate" button and indicating Marlboro Beach.

The annual town meeting in Lamoine authorized the town to use

\$10,000 from the land conservation fund to put with the funds from the Frenchman Bay Conservancy to purchase the remainder of the beach from the heirs of Eleanor Norris. Dority says the plan is to have the Norris family directly deed the land to the town which owns a small piece of the beach already.



Lamoine Community Arts Fall Production

By Diane Sanderson

(Lamoine) - Lamoine Community Arts (LCA) has completed further upgrades to the Lamoine-Bayside Grange building. Last year the building's electrical system and lighting were updated with new stage lighting installed in time for last fall's production. This summer the exterior walls and attic were insulated and ventilated! We are now cooler in the summer, will be warmer in the winter and can now be open for year round use.

LCA's fall performance this year is "The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney. The play is set in the dining room of a well-to-do household and presents interrelated scenes creating a portrait of the vanishing upper middle class WASP society. Numerous vignettes have actors changing roles and personalities as the

various scenes blend together into a theatrical experience that reveals compassion, abundant humanity and humor. We're excited to be welcoming four new performers to the ensemble of 15 actors for this production.

The five scheduled performances will be at the Lamoine-Bayside Grange on Rte 184, Lamoine Corner on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 and 28 at 7pm and the following week-end Nov 3 and 4 at 7pm, with a 3pm Sunday matinee on Nov. 5th. Admission is \$10. For reservations and information, call 667-7969.

Lamoine Community Arts is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the arts in Lamoine and surrounding towns. We welcome new members and friends.

GET WET Seeks Funding

GET WET! (Groundwater Education Through Water Evaluation & Testing) is a hands-on science project involving Lamoine Consolidated School fifth and sixth grade students. It was initiated by the Lamoine Conservation Commission (LCC) in 2005 through the guidance of staff at what was then named the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Water Research at the University of Maine. Students tested their home water samples at school with guidance from the Mitchell Center staff for chloride, nitrates, iron (metals), pH, hardness, and conductivity. Unfortunately, the current Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions no longer supports the GET WET! program. LCC remains committed to continuing the project, and for the January, 2017 testing, LCC members worked with students and sent the results to a former Mitchell Center staff member who has launched GET WET! Programs elsewhere in the country; she is assisting with data assembling and analysis. Since the initial testing in 2006, we have 12 years of valuable data about Lamoine's water.

In order to implement GET WET! in the current school year and sustain the project into the future, we will need to purchase meters and other supplies. We are in the process of pursuing grant funding, but need immediate financial support in order to conduct testing in the current school year. We are asking Lamoine citizens for donations so we can continue to involve Lamoine's fifth and sixth grade students in this valuable program for the Town of Lamoine. For the current year, we need \$500, but we hope to obtain grants in the amount of \$1,000 to purchase supplies needed for the coming decade. Many small donations would easily allow us to reach our \$500 goal for the current year. If you are financially able, we would appreciate donations in any amount; checks can be made out to Lamoine Conservation Commission ("GET WET!" in the memo line), or cash donations can be dropped off at Town Hall in envelopes marked "GET WET! Donation." Thank you in advance for helping preserve this important educational and resource stewardship program.

Cemeteries Could Use Funding, People

(Lamoine) - Funding maintenance at a privately owned cemetery is a challenge. The plots need to be mowed, old grave stones repaired from time to time, and someone needs to take care of other general upkeep matters. Back in the good old days before interest rates fell sharply, perpetual maintenance funds earned enough to take care of all that. Now, with just a half a percent of interest, the revenue stream is virtually gone.

East Lamoine Cemetery (behind the Lamoine Historical Society building) needs donations to fund removal of a large tree. It's estimated that will cost a few thousand dollars. Donations can be sent to Treasurer Joseph Young Jr.

Forest Hill Cemetery (next to the Lamoine Baptist Church) has a new treasurer. Cindy Sargent of Mariaville has agreed to take over the job from Alice Upton. Ms. Sargent has ties to Lamoine through the McDevitt family.

The town funds care of veteran graves at both cemeteries and at the Marlboro Cemetery. Agreements with East Lamoine and Forest Hill provide for \$30/plot for each veteran buried in those cemeteries. The Marlboro Cemetery Association has yet to re-form after disbanding many years ago. Selectman Gary McFarland offered to head the effort to form a new Marlboro Cemetery Association in the past.



*Congratulations to Olivia Davis, the 2017 Lamoine Community Arts scholarship recipient. She attended the Grand's Summer Intensive where she learned different aspects of theatre, all leading up to a performance of *Legally Blonde, Jr.**

Garden OK'd Behind Fire Station

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Fire Chief and Board of Selectmen have given a green thumbs up to a plan to establish a school garden behind the Lamoine Fire Station. Teacher Chris James and Conservation Commission member Diane Nicholls came up with the idea of establishing the garden next spring. Students will plant, fertilize and water vegetables once the time is right for planting. The land is overgrown with grass. Underneath the plot is the fire station's septic tank, which should make for some pretty fertile soil. There's no immediate word on what they'll do with the veggies that grow,.

Parks Appointment

(Lamoine) - Bob Ehlers of Partridge Cove Road is the latest appointee who has agreed to serve on the Lamoine Parks Commission. Mr. Ehlers says he's a big fan of Marlboro Beach, visiting almost every day. He fills a void created when Paula Gardner declined to be reappointed to the commission.

Conservation Commission Vacancy Filled

(Lamoine) - Two vacancies on Lamoine's Conservation Commission have been filled following the retirements of former chair Larry Libby and former secretary Anne Labossiere.

Kerry Diskin of Mosely Point Lane will fill one of the seats, while alternate member Jeff Cosulich assumes a full membership. Filling the alternate position is Diane Nicholls of Falcon Lane who has been an associate member of the commission for several years. The Board of Selectmen presented Libby & Labossiere certificates for their service.

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October 2017—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2— 5:30 PM Parks Commission 6:30 PM Planning Board	3-6:30 PM CEO Search Committee	4—6PM Board of Assessors	5—7:00 PM Board of Selectmen	6	7-Town Office open 8am to Noon
8	9-6:45 PM CEO Search Committee Town Office Closed (Holiday)	10—7:00 PM Board of Selectmen	11-7PM Conservation Commission	12-6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning	13-3PM East Lamoine Cemetery Association	14
15	16-Town Office closed @ lunch	17	18-5PM Lamoine 150 7PM Regional Shellfishing	19—7:00 PM Board of Selectmen	20	21
22	23-6:30 PM Budget Committee	24	25	26-6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning	27-Town Office closed at lunch	28-Town Office open 8am to Noon
29	30	31	The Budget Committee will determine its fall/winter schedule at the organizational meeting on October 23rd. Consult the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov) for future meeting times.			

November 2017—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-Board of Assessors, time TBA	2-7PM Board of Selectmen	3	4-Town Office open 8am to Noon
5	6	7-State referendum election 8am-8pm	8—7PM Conservation Commission	9-6:30 PM— MacQuinn Pit hearing @ School 6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning	10	11-Veterans' Day
12	13-7:00 PM Planning Board	14-7:00 PM Planning Board	15-5PM Lamoine 150 7PM Regional Shellfishing	16-7PM Board of Selectmen	17	18—10AM—2PM Comp Planning Public Forum
19	20	21	22	23-Town Office Closed (Thanksgiving)	24-Nomination Papers Available	25-Town Office open 8am to Noon
26	27	28	29	30-7PM Board of Selectmen		

December 2017—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2-Town Office open 8am to Noon
3	4—7PM Planning Board	5	6—Board of Assessors Time TBA	7-6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning	8	9
10	11	12	13-7PM Conservation Commission	14-7PM Board of Selectmen	15	16
17	18	19	20-7PM Regional Shellfishing	21	22	23
24	25-Town Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30-Town Office open 8am to Noon
31						

The Lamoine Quarterly
October 2017

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Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605