The Lamoine Quarterly

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Happy 150th To Us!

Events Galore to Mark Lamoine's Founding

Celebrating Lamoine's Story in December were (l-r) Fred Stocking, Aiden Young, Carol Mason, Bayley Baldridge, Jayson King & Alex Yeadon (Carol Duffy photo)

(Lamoine) - The celebration of the official establishment of the Town of Lamoine 150 years ago is well under way, and 2020 is going to be a fun year. As noted in the October 2019 edition of the *Lamoine Quarterly* the celebration began with a relatively low-key road race and community barbecue. In November, the Lamoine 150! Committee presented the first two productions of a year-long series called "Celebrating Our Story". The first told the story of the town's "Road to Incorporation". Reading from articles from the 1870 Ellsworth American and other sources, a dozen "readers" conveyed the flavor of how the town meeting and community discussions took place when East Trenton broke apart from Trenton and became Lamoine. Much of the breakup had to do with transportation and education and there were a lot of details to take care of before the Maine Legislature and Governor Joshua Chamberlain put pen to paper and declared that Lamoine would become its very own town on March 1, 1870.

A lot of Lamoine residents packed the school gym for the next presentation put on by the Conservation Commission which talked about the archaeology of our area. Archeologist Rick Will gave a captivating talk for about an hour and a half, noting that several shell heaps in Lamoine (he had to keep their location a secret) give great clues as to what was going on here long before the Europeans settled the area.

The second Celebrating Our Story production packed the Lamoine Grange in early December, recreating in a similar format of the first show, what life was like in the 1890s and focusing on what townspeople did for entertainment. The audience sang along with songs of the period, and a large cast of characters, including a quartet from the Lamoine Consolidated School, lent some authenticity to the show.

Some real excitement is coming up in the next few weeks. The next Celebrating Our Story is set for Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:30 at the Grange. It will describe the various neighborhoods of Lamoine and the important roles they played in creating a sense of community. A cribbage fest is planned for the Lamoine Grange on January 12, 2020 from 2PM to 4PM. Cribbage is a favorite game among many townspeople. There is no entry fee and no prize for that champ, but it should be a fun chance to get together and play cards.

Lamoine will be celebrated with poetry and songs on Saturday, February 8 at the Lamoine Grange beginning at 6:30 P.M. If you have a song or poem to share, send an email to lamoine150@gmail.com.

On February 11, 2020 all residents are encouraged to take a picture of what they're doing on that day in Lamoine. That date is one of the benchmark 150th dates in the founding of the town. With cell phones and digital cameras easily accessible, picture takers are encouraged to snap whatever shot they want and submit it to the Lamoine 150! Committee for an electronic display for a "Day in the Life of Lamoine". Pictures can be posted on the Lamoine150 Facebook page or emailed to lamoine150@gmail.com.

And, on March 18th, the Town meeting day, plans are in the works to share historical moments from the very first Lamoine Town Meeting, including the actual articles to be voted upon. That'll take place just before the real annual town meeting at the school gym.

Finally, mark your calendars with "Happy Birthday Lamoine" on Sunday March 1. We will gather to celebrate the actual day that our town "took its first breath" in 1870. Stay tuned to Lamoine 150! on Facebook and to the town website for further details.

Tall House Subject of Further Appeal

(Lamoine) - After issuing a decision that encouraged the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) to reconsider how the height of a building was determined, Lamoine's Board of Appeals has received another submission from a neighbor who claims the building in question is taller than the Building and Land Use Ordinance allows.

CEO Rebecca Albright issued her written determination that the measurements she performed in the spring of 2019 on a new residence constructed by Kathryn and Thomas True conformed to the 35-foot limit. In the message to the Board of Selectmen and appellant Alan Moldawer, Albright said the town does not possess the tools to accurately survey the average height of the building when compared to the terrain prior to construction. She did note, however, that the building was constructed in conformance with plans submitted with the building permit application that was approved in late 2018. The permit issuance, which amended an earlier application, was never challenged as improper.

Mr. Moldawer has filed an appeal of that redetermination with the Board of Appeals. The Appeals Board will meet on January 22, 2020, but only to entertain a vote on whether to request legal representation permission from the Board of Selectmen, and to schedule a preliminary meeting on the filing. The appellant has indicated that he is willing to delay action until spring when many who spend summers in the neighborhood can return to attend meetings.

Two Part Town Meeting Planned for March

Election is March 3, Open Meeting March 18, 2020

(Lamoine) - If campaign signs are going to start appearing around town, chances are they won't be for the municipal elections that will take place on March 3, 2020. The only people taking out nomination papers for local office were those who currently hold the seats to be filled. Nathan Mason is running for re-election as Selectman, Gordon Donaldson and Matthew Montgomery for School Committee and Terry Towne for another term on the Board of Assessors. Nomination papers were due on January 3, 2020, a little earlier that previous years due to a change in state laws. Absentee ballots will be available beginning on January 29, 2020. The municipal election date coincides with Maine's Presidential Primary election. The municipal ballot will be separate from the state ballots and hand counted.

The open town meeting date will NOT be the day after the election. Instead, it will be on March 18, 2020 beginning at 6PM at the school gym. In past years, weather has been a factor for the open meeting night, and Selectmen felt that moving it a couple weeks later would have less of a chance of a winter mess. There's also a bit of a benefit to town staff with the break between election day and the open meeting to give more time to prepare for the 2nd part. Harvey Kelley has agreed to moderate the town meeting again for both parts.

Planning Board Approves Gravel Permits

(Lamoine) - Six operating gravel pits will continue to operate following action by Lamoine's Planning Board in the fall. After an exhaustive item by item review of the applications, the board gave approval to:

- Harold MacQuinn, Inc—Higgins Pit
- Harold MacQuinn, Inc.—Sand Pit
- Harold MacQuinn, Inc.—Asher Pit
- RF Jordan & Sons—McDevitt Pit
- John W. Goodwin—East Lamoine Pit
- John W. Goodwin—Davis Pit

All the gravel contractors were represented by surveyor Stephen Salsbury who over the years has become very familiar with navigating the town's gravel permitting process. Public hearings were held in December when the Planning Board followed up what few comments were received by approving all of the permits.

The Board of Selectmen approved a fee structure schedule as allowed by the ordinance earlier in 2019, increasing the permit fees to $50 per operating acre. That resulted in a significant revenue increase for gravel permit fees, as some of the pits span dozens of acres. The thought behind the fee increase was two-fold. Gravel permitting and inspection takes up a big chunk of code enforcement and board time, and a higher fee might encourage operators to permit fewer acres and restore more acreage.

Landowner Files Suit, Bars Planning Board

(Lamoine) - Harold MacQuinn, Inc, one of the larger landowners in Lamoine and operator of several gravel pits, has filed suit against the Town of Lamoine for alleged violations of the Freedom of Access Act, also known as the Right to Know Law. The company contends that the Planning Board violated the law when the Cable TV telecast of a board meeting showed members talking with each other inside the town hall following the meeting's adjournment. MacQuinn contends that the conversations constituted an illegal meeting because there was no public notice posted of the "meeting after the meeting". Planning Board member recall that they were not discussing anything to do with a matter before the board, but discussing personal matters as friends and acquaintances. Town Attorney Daniel Pileggi filed an answer to the suit asking that it be dismissed because there was no law violation and the plaintiffs (MacQuinn) have not asked for any damages. Pileggi also noted that a permit matter before the board was ultimately approved for MacQuinn.

The company has also issued a no-trespass order against the chair of the Planning Board, requesting that he not be present on their property unless the visit is part of official Planning Board business. The chair had typically accompanied the town's Code Enforcement Officer on annual inspections of the various gravel pits. While the gravel ordinance gives the CEO the right to enter pits for inspection, that same right is not granted to Planning Board members. Board chair John Holt says he will comply with the request.

Town Cites Landowner for Violation

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Code Enforcement Officer and Town Attorney have begun action against a Bar Harbor Highlands area property owner for alleged illegal tree removal and driveway installation in the Shoreland Zone. Several months ago CEO Rebecca Albright sent a notice of violation via certified letter to William Andrews of Sullivan. A neighbor complained that the cutting took place sometime during 2019, and the CEO observed the property in question prior to making notification. While the landowner received the letter, he failed to make contact with CEO Albright within the requested time limit. Because of the lack of contact, Albright received permission to utilize town attorney Daniel Pileggi to proceed with the case. He and the CEO met with the alleged violator who produced a preliminary engineering plan to help remedy the violation. A court date is set in March to make sure the work is done. Lamoine's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and state law, provide for fines ranging from a minimum of $100 per day to a maximum of $2,500 per day.

How to Know What Neighbors are Building

(Lamoine) - The disputed building in the Marlboro section of Lamoine is a potentially a pretty good example of neighbors not being aware of what building projects are approved around them. In that case the property owners applied for a building permit, then amended the permit application several times in order to meet setback concerns. The final application amendment was approved in late 2018, and construction began in the spring of 2019.

Under the Lamoine Building and Land Use Ordinance, the Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to issue permits for residential dwellings upon proper application. She is not required to notify abutting property owners that an application has been filed, and generally if all is in order, a permit can be issued on the day of application. The Planning Board is the issuing authority for projects that involve commercial buildings and a whole host of other applications. When the Planning Board gets involved, abutters must be notified and a public hearing held prior to permit issuance.

The town office staff maintains a permit log on the town's website, and updates it within just a few days of any permit being issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. In the last year or so, staff has scanned the permit application cover page and a sketch of the property layout required on all permit applications, and included that on the website posting. By clicking on the permit number, the scanned pages will open showing the application information. Abutters are encouraged to check the page frequently.

Hearing Planned For Shoreland Zoning, Comprehensive Plan Documents

(Lamoine) - The town's Planning Board has been working for several years on an updated Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to bring the town into compliance with state mandated regulations within the shore area. The final draft is now ready for a public hearing prior to action by the town meeting. That hearing will take place on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall.

The "new" ordinance adds just two properties to the Resource Protection Zone. Both properties are located at the head of the Jordan River and would not necessarily be suitable to build within the Shoreland zone. The owners of both properties were notified of the hearing as required by state law.

Working with the Planning Board was the College of the Atlantic which has prepared an updated Shoreland Zoning map. That map gives a much more detailed look at exactly where the updated Shoreland Zones sit.

Members of the public are encouraged to speak in regard to the Shoreland Zone. Copies of the proposed ordinance and outlines of the significant changes are available at the town hall and posted on the town's website. Presuming no changes are made to the draft ordinance, a final vote will take place at the town meeting March 18, 2020.

State mandates are also behind a proposed amendment to the town's comprehensive plan that was approved in March 2019. After voters approved the document that was about 4-years in the making, the town submitted the Comp Plan to the State of Maine for its blessing. As expected, the state found some areas they felt were lacking, and sent the plan back for further drafting. The Comprehensive Planning Committee was able to accomplish the updated plan with relative ease, and not a lot of change to the originally passed document. After re-submission to the state for a compliance check, the nearly final "blessing" was received.

The hearing on the amended Comprehensive Plan will follow the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance hearing on January 20, 2020 at the town hall. Like the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, presuming there are no changes proposed to the Comp Plan, voters will be asked to give final approval at the March 2020 town meeting.

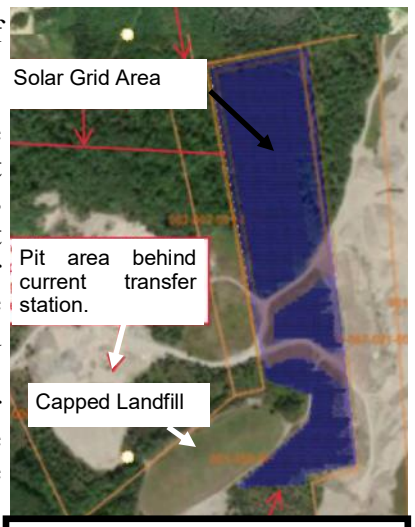
Line Agreement In Works

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have agreed to hire surveyor Stephen Salsbury to write a description of a property line agreement with landowner Marion McDevitt to clearly define the common boundary between lots located between Shore Road and Lamoine Beach Road. The town initially discussed such an effort more than 20-years ago, but never made much progress. A recent line agreement with another party came up with a basis for a property line that should match current tax maps.

Solar Project Makes Slow Headway

(Lamoine) - The Town of Lamoine and Sunpower Corporation are still talking about a large solar array to be built on town owned land that will produce several megawatts of power. The company met with Selectmen last fall after submitting a proposal to lease land where the town's capped landfill sits.

There has been a fair amount of work behind the scenes by SunPower since Selectmen accepted their proposal. Voters packed the town hall in early November, unanimously favoring authorizing the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a lease with the company. A draft lease is currently under discussion between town attorney Dan Pileggi and Sunpower's legal team. The company has also been in discussion with an agent for at least one abutting landowner about possibly enlarging the project into the abutting gravel pit area. No final decision has been made in that regard.



From a concept drawing of where a solar grid would sit on town owned land.

A representative for Sunpower met with Planning Board Chair John Holt in early December to review what kind of permitting is needed locally and to look over the proposed lease area. State and Federal program guidelines are evolving over subsidies for solar power. A Sunpower representative hopes to have permitting and a contract in place by mid-sprint to take advantage of the federal incentives to build such projects.

Building Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright issued the following permits in the final quarter of 2019:

Nbr	Name	Project
41	Shubert, Carol	Garage
42	Mason, Nathan	Shed
43	Cline, Lee	Greenhouse
44	Richardson, Chris	Garage
45	Schofield, Brian	Residence
46	Menzietti Ent.	Shed
47	Brown, Constance	Addition
48	Nasberg, Gerald	Sign
49	Frost, Jack	Residence
50	Lescynski, Henry	Steps/Deck
51	Haff, Richard	Residence
52	Sanborn, Reginald	Garage

In addition to the above permits, Albright, in her capacity as plumbing inspector issued 4 septic permits, two replacement leach field permits, and four internal/hookup plumbing permits.

Wanted: Budget Committee Members

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Budget Committee functioned with three members at each meeting this fall. The committee is a five member committee, but member Connie Bender moved out of town just as budget season was starting, and no one was appointed to replace Marion McDevitt who retired as a full committee member in July 2019. That left Robin Veysey, Merle Bragdon, Tiffany McMullen and alternate member Paul Howaniec to review the municipal budget and make recommendations to the town meeting. The committee meets four to five times in the fall and once in the spring to review the school budget. If interested in serving, contact the town hall.

Facilities Maintenance Manager Michael Hodgkins

Fiscal Agent Contract Canceled

(Lamoine) - The Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District (HCSWD) has decided to not proceed at this time with a project to study the Jordan River Area for water suitability regarding aquaculture projects. The Board of Selectmen had agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the project operating under a state and federal grant.

The Check is in the Mail

(Augusta) - If you receive a homestead property tax exemption, you should receive a check from the State of Maine for $104.00 by March 1st. The Legislature approved refunds to homesteaders under the property tax relief program. Like all other municipalities in the state, the town provided the names and addresses of all Lamoine residents who were granted the homestead exemption as of April 1, 2019.

In addition to the cash, each Lamoine homestead exemption holder saw a $218.00 reduction in the 2019/20 property tax bill. The State of Maine reimburses the municipality a percentage of the lost real estate tax revenue from the homestead exemptions.

If you think you qualify for a homestead exemption, an application must be filed prior to April 1, 2020 to be eligible for the next round of property tax bills. The application is very easy to fill out and available at the town hall.

New Facilities Maintenance Director Hired

(Lamoine) - Former Trenton Selectman Michael Hodgkins has agreed to fill the Lamoine Facilities Maintenance Director's job that became vacant in the fall of 2019 when Rick Gallegos and his family moved to Texas. Hodgkins was one of three finalists for the position which is responsible for maintaining the town hall, the three town parks, some aspects of the fire station and transfer station, the town's storage garage.

Hodgkins has a lot of experience in the facilities maintenance field. He performed similar duties for the Sonogee Rehabilitation Center in Bar Harbor prior to its closing. And, he's certainly familiar with municipal government, serving for many years as a Selectman in our neighbor to the west.

Mr. Hodgkins is a licensed auctioneer and has, in the past, led the bidding for the Lamoine Fire Department Auction. He also runs a small used vehicle business at his home on Route 3 in Trenton.

Selectmen unanimously hired him on the recommendations of a small search committee consisting of Selectman Kathleen Rybarz and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon.

Proposed 2020/21 Municipal Budget is Up (slightly)

(Lamoine) - When voters gather for the annual town meeting on March 18, 2020, most of the articles will deal with the municipal budget. The town's budget committee and selectmen are recommending an increase in the overall municipal side of the budget. While the spending increase is proposed at more than $103,000, the impact on property taxes will be less than 1/10th of a mill, or about $33,000 in total taxes. A typical home assessed at $200,000 would see an increase of $24.60 in its property tax bill based loosely on the current valuation.

What's driving the spending increase? Road paving. During the current fiscal year, the town paved only a short section of Buttermilk Road. The upcoming year (2020/2021) will see a section of Shore Road and a section of Mill Road repaved. The paving budget is up $62,000 or 72%. There are other big projects included in the proposed budget. The Selectmen expect to reconfigure the transfer station and have budgeted $50,000 for that project which the town will likely have to borrow money to accomplish. Speaking of the transfer station, recycling costs have skyrocketed in the current fiscal year due to transportation costs. That budget is up about $17,000 or 62%. Contracted raises are partly responsible for the administration budget's 4% increase.

Some of the proposed budgets have fallen. The fire department completed funding of airpack upgrades, lowering the public safety budget by almost 2%. Social Service requests are down for the upcoming year as well.

Cupola Work Planned, Bell Coming Out

(Lamoine) - It's fair to say that the town hall no longer has a need for the bell that resides in the cupola. We're not sure the last time it rang; most likely when the building was used as a school which dates back many decades. The Board of Selectmen have approved a contract with a Waterville company that specializes in church steeples and other such structures to remove the bell from the cupola sometime in the spring. That project will cost just under $1,900, and the Board had set aside $3,000 for work on the cupola at the end of the fiscal year in 2019. The Selectmen have a plan for the bell. The idea is to display it at the Lamoine Consolidated School lot, and school officials were excited by the possibility.

The entire cupola structure also needs a lot of work. The gentleman from Mid Maine Restoration (MMR) who looked over the cupola discovered a large hole in the roof, and that's no doubt the source of water that gets into the town office ceilings when it rains. While removing the bell, they plan to patch up the hole temporarily. The remainder of the cupola work is a lot more expensive, and Selectmen have tentatively approved a contract with the same company to do it right. Pending town meeting approval, the money (more than $11,000) will come from the capital improvement fund and be allocated for the current fiscal year. That work will involve replacing the cupola's roof, replacing the louvers that provide for ventilation, and installing new roofing material over the roofing substructure.

The cupola roof has been a problem for several years, and the town has struggled to find a local contractor that wished to take on the project. MMR is the same company that replaced the steeple at the Lamoine Baptist Church.

Tree Trimming Under Way on Two Roads

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen hired the crew from Berry Cove Gardens to trim back the trees encroaching the road and shoulders on both Walker Road and Buttermilk Road. Greg Gleason's company was the lower of the two bids received on the project.

Gleason started trimming in December on Walker Road and in early January on Buttermilk Road as weather permitted. The goal of the branch and tree trimming is to eliminate interference from those branches with safe passage of motor vehicles and pedestrians. By opening up the canopy, the sunlight will also promote faster snow melt after storms. The cutting was not without controversy, as a couple of Walker Road residents felt the project was cutting back too far from the roadsides. The instructions from the Road Commissioner asked Gleason to trim to either the back edge of the road ditches, where they are established, or to the utility line limit. The town's right of way generally extends about 25-feet from the center of the travel lane on local roads.

Lamoine 150! Merchandise for Sale

(Lamoine) - Quite a few people completed their holiday shopping at the Lamoine Town Hall by purchasing commemorative items offered up for sale by the Lamoine 150! Committee. The hottest sellers were coffee mugs (the committee is on its third order), baseball caps, and wine/juice glasses.

The committee also has winter hats that were available at the 5K road race in September, a few shirts, and a variety of other offerings such as posters and refrigerator magnets available while supplies last. The baseball hats, which are very popular, also help to benefit a playground project at Lamoine Beach Park.

The committee has priced items reasonably, and sales tax is included in the price. The proceeds will help defray the costs of the big 150th birthday party, including a parade and fireworks planned in August of 2020.

Most of the items are for sale at the town hall, and at official Lamoine 150! Events that are upcoming. The Lamoine 150! Committee is open to ideas for other merchandise sales. Contact Cynthia Donaldson or Jo Cooper for details on how to offer up merchandise.

State Confirms Road Repaving In Summer

(Lamoine) - The official re-paving list from the Maine Department of Transportation has come out, and both Routes 204 and 184 are on the list for the summer of 2020. The MDOT typically asks communities if any work is planned for the roads they intend to pave, and that request was received in late fall. The town does not intend to do any digging on either road.

The new surface should be a marked improvement over the current pavement which is full of cracks, peeled away asphalt, potholes and frost heaves. It won't be all that thick, though, as the DOT plans what is politely termed as skinny mix. That's the same material that went down last summer between the Lamoine School and Shore Road on Route 184, which was a big improvement that went down sooner than planned.

Local MDOT crews spent much of the summer of 2019 replacing rotted culverts and digging ditches along the sides of both roads in hopes that the new pavement will last longer than the previous paving job a few years back. Those repaired areas have shown improved drainage and the frost heaves have not materialized yet during the 2019/20 winter months.

No exact date has been set for repaving, but it's likely to be after the start of the state's fiscal year on July 1st.

Crack Sealing Half Done

(Lamoine) - Cold weather arrived sooner than was expected, curtailing planned crack seal maintenance on Buttermilk and Walker Roads. The crew from Wilson's Ground Maintenance out of the Bangor area was able to complete the work on Buttermilk Road after the first plowable snow of the season melted away and it was briefly warm enough to effectively fill up the cracks. Still, the snow plow peeled away some of the fresh crack sealant on the busy road. It's believed the crew will return in the spring to complete the job on Walker Road.

Selectmen authorized using some paving funds from Buttermilk Road to pay for the sealing effort. By sealing cracks, water doesn't get into the road bed and freeze and thaw, causing sever e road damage.

November Turnout Low

(Lamoine) - Fewer than 18-percent of Lamoine's roughly 1,500 voters cast ballots in the statewide election in November 2019. The results from Lamoine were actually a little better than most towns that did not have any local issues on the ballot. The results of the 269 votes cast in town reflected the state wide election that approved a road projects bond and a constitutional amendment on petition signing. The next statewide election is March 3, 2020 which includes a presidential primary and local balloting

Transfer Station Redesign Concept Nears

(Lamoine) - Selectmen await a concept plan for the future of the town's transfer station from engineers at CES. Former Bar Harbor Public Works Director Chip Reeves who is leading the project, has been measuring the current facility and met with town officials to figure out what the goals are for a potentially re-designed transfer station. The drawing may be ready in late January or early February.

Selectmen said they would like to potentially add compactors for both the municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling materials in order to cut down on the significantly mounting transportation costs to get trash and recycling from Lamoine to it's next destination—either the PERC plant in Orrington for the MSW or the DM&J facility in Winterport for recycling. By compacting the material on site, it's believed those costs can be lowered, and potentially pay for improvements.

One of the challenges will be potential lines at the transfer station, as only a few vehicles will be able to dump their MSW and recycling at the same time. Currently, the town has 13 MSW dumpsters and 2 recycling roll-off containers in a horse-shoe configuration. Reeves hopes to come up with a plan to accommodate multiple users in the layout.

The curtain at the Lamoine/Bayside Grange shows a vista from the Marlboro section of town, including Meadow Point and Mt. Desert Island

Fire Department Responds to Record Number of Calls During 2019

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department responded to a record number of emergency calls during the just completed calendar year. The previous record was set during 2017, and the call volume in 2019 finished at 95 calls, three more than the volume two years prior.

The year ended with an emergency call to a Lamoine Beach Road residence when Northern Light Transport asked for assistance getting a young woman with an injured knee from her 2nd floor apartment to the ambulance below.

Many of the calls during the final quarter of the year involved removing trees from the road after windstorms in mid-October and on Halloween. There were some serious fires that Lamoine and many other departments helped to fight. On November 9th, the department was diverted to Mariaville when a home in that town went up in flames (the picture below is from that scene). Lamoine's tanker truck was the 2nd tanker to arrive on scene, and the pumper truck refilled responding tankers.

The department also sent manpower and equipment to Trenton on December 16th for a house fire that started as a chimney fire. Because of the construction around the chimney, it took fire crews more than 3-hours of hard work to open up the wall to reach the are that was burning. Lamoine filled tanker trucks and also supplied interior firefighters at the scene.

Several of the calls included requests for help with getting patients from their homes into the ambulance.

Foreclosure Notices Mailed

(Lamoine) - Property owners who have not paid their taxes assessed in 2017 received certified mail that informs them of pending automatic foreclosure by the town. The foreclosure date is February 7, 2020. There were 19 properties on the list, a little lower than in past years. That represents a little over $12,000 in unpaid taxes, with about $2,900 in additional fees and interest that has accumulated. If the taxes are not paid in time, the Selectmen will offer to sell back the property to the previous owner for all back taxes, fees and interest. If they refuse, properties may go up for auction.

Lamoine/Bayside Grange News

By Carol Korty

Lots of events have been happening this fall at the Grange. Our monthly meetings are open to all on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:30 with a potluck. (Because January's first Wednesday falls on New Year's Day that month we'll meet a week later on the 8th.) What are we up to?

We sponsored three Red Cross Blood Drives here this year to serve the larger community. For fun we're setting up tables for folks to play or learn to play Cribbage, Sunday afternoon, Jan 12, from 2-4. What better way to enjoy the company of other Lamoiners on a winter afternoon?

We continue to co-ordinate with Lamoine Community Arts, who've made the Grange home for their productions, Open Mic, play readings and meetings. And two of the 150 Celebrations appeared on our stage thanks to the efforts of the 150 Committee and LCA. Many more are to come in 2020.

The request to lower our painted curtain to serve as a backdrop prompted us to seek professional help in restoring this curtain so that it may be regularly used in years to come. Its somewhat fragile state is not surprising, considering it's almost 100 years old and has undergone at least three different refurbishing, the most recent in 1959. We believe all of the "touch ups" retained the original design that depicts the view from Marlboro of Catnip Island, the Narrows, and the mountains of MDI.

Fire Department Adds Saw, Blitz Attack Device

(Lamoine) - A successful fund raising year for Lamoine's volunteer fire department saw a couple of new pieces of equipment installed on the trucks in the fall of 2019. Department members agreed to purchase a "Blitz-Fire" nozzle on Engine 403, the first pump truck due at fire scenes. This nozzle will deliver a large volume of water onto fires in a short amount of time. The device is designed to sit on the ground and water is delivered by a 2.5" hose. It'll help cool down fires to keep them from growing, gaining time for firefighters to get inside burning buildings to further attack flames.

The other device added to the arsenal is a rescue saw. It's a battery powered circular saw that's much mower powerful and portable than your typical home style saw. The department added blades that should be able to cut through numerous materials, including masonry and metal. In addition to cutting roofs and walls, the saw will also prove useful on vehicle accidents and other incidents where access is limited.

Funds raised from the annual auction and the letter writing campaign paid for both items. Additionally, the fire department and the town combined to purchase 10 "new" airpacks for the department, replacing obsolete airpacks that were about 25-years old.

Wind Storm Damages Park Kiosk

(Lamoine) - One of two wind storms that hit in October caused some severe damage to the kiosk structure at Bloomfield Park on Blunt's Pond. The wind knocked down a large pine tree that grazed the kiosk, damaging the roof and knocking it off kilter.

The Lamoine Parks Commission has looked into repairs, and the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department has stepped up. The kiosk structure was removed to the fire station, where some very talented volunteer carpenters have been working to repair the roof in their spare time.

That same storm brought down other trees, one of which completely blocked the access road into the park. Volunteers cut that up and got the road open within a few days.

The kiosk should return to the park in the spring once the ground thaws and the posts can be re-set into the ground. None of the interpretive panels in the kiosk sustained damage, though one has gunshot pellet holes from a few years back.

Marlboro Beach—Leave it There!

(Lamoine) - Parks Commissioners say folks are pilfering from the park at Marlboro Beach. Missing are some larger rocks used to stabilize the road leading to the beach and the shoreline. Removing the rocks can lead to expensive road repairs.

Also missing is some sea heather and rugose rose plants. The Parks Commission reminds users that the rocks and plants belong in the park.

Selectmen Reject Cell Tower Lease Sale

(Lamoine) - Periodically, the town gets offers from companies across the nation to purchase the town's lease to American Tower for the cell phone tower near the former landfill. The latest such offer was particularly aggressive, but the Board has rejected the offer. The purchase price was about half of what the expected revenue for the tower lease would be over the next 25-years or so. The revenues from the land lease helps offset property taxes.

The Marlboro Commons Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By Gordon Donaldson & Gary McFarland

Downeast communities have a long history of caring for their own. Lamoine is no exception. A wonderful example of this occurred 110 years ago, right in Marlboro. Marion McFarland put pen to paper recently to describe how "neighbors helping neighbors" played a vital part in her family's history.

In the winter of 1910, Marion's grandfather, Daniel McIntyre, was stricken with an appendicitis. He lived in Marlboro with his wife Alice and their three children, Louise, Cecil, and Winifred (Marion's mother). The nearest hospital was in Bar Harbor and the most direct route to it was across Frenchman's Bay – a treacherous passage in winter, but especially so if you're attempting it in a row boat!

Marion described her grandfather's crossing this way:

> *"Daniel's brother made a makeshift stretcher from two poles and a blanket and they carried him to the shore, probably a half mile, put him in a row boat and took turns rowing him to Bar Harbor Hospital. By the time he got there he had gangrene. By some small miracle he lived and was there almost all winter."*

With Daniel unable to provide food, wood, and other essentials, Alice and the three children faced their own dangers. But the Marlboro community in those days was well equipped to assist families in predicaments like the McIntyre's. Located between the Marlboro chapel (on what is now the Seal Point Road) and the chapel's cemetery was an area known as "The Commons", consisting of a humble building and cleared land. Alice McIntyre and her three children spent that winter living in the Commons building, supported by the families of Marlboro. When Daniel and the family returned home, the community held a Chopping Bee to put in a wood supply to get them through the spring and beyond.

According to Marion and to Robert McDonald, the Commons building was used for dances, suppers, community affairs, and "to help any in need in the area." Orchards and blueberries grew on the Commons land and it included vegetable gardens to supply those in need. It was, in many ways, the heart of the Marlboro community, helping everyone to feel connected and cared for. Gary McFarland has located the remains of the building's foundation and fencing that most likely kept cows and horses penned in and out of the gardens.

Community Center Survey Results Released

By Larissa Thomas

(Lamoine) The Community Center Feasibility Study Committee, tasked with exploring the possibility of a community center and what it might entail, has recently concluded a survey in which the people of Lamoine had the opportunity to weigh in on questions related to whether the town should have a community center and if so, what it should be like. The survey followed a Needs Assessment conducted to understand the current and future space needs and challenges for various organizations in town. The survey was advertised in many ways, including many hours of chilly person-to-person appeals at the Transfer Station. The Study Committee received 214 responses—around 90 percent from full-time residents, and with older residents more heavily represented. Over 80 percent of respondents believe that a community center would be a valuable addition to the town. However, over 80 percent of respondents believed that funding for a community center should either involve no property tax increase or a tax increase of 5 percent or less. Over 50 percent of respondents believe that the town should only consider a community center whose cost could be covered without raising property taxes beyond what most residents consider reasonable. However, over 50 percent of respondents stated that the attractiveness of the community center would influence whether they would use it or not. There are many activities that a majority of respondents voiced interest in at a hypothetical community center in Lamoine. They include classes (art, music, etc.), meetings (book clubs, community groups, etc.), special events (parties, weddings, memorial services, etc.), exercise classes, an emergency shelter, and musical performances. The Study Committee's findings have been provided to the Select Board with a recommendation for next steps, which could include soliciting proposals for a design and cost estimate for a new community center building or an addition to the school that could serve multiple needs.

The Community Center Feasibility Study Committee's meetings are open to the public. We invite our fellow Lamoiners to join us and provide input as we continue to consider how the town should proceed. Check the town website for our next meeting date. For those interested in a more detailed picture of the survey results, you can review the tabulated responses here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-ZPR5RM9S7/

Rec Cmte Opening

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Recreation Committee has an opening following the resignation of Patti Haslam. The Selectmen accepted the resignation in October. The term expires June 30, 2021. If interested in filling the slot, contact the town office or Rec Committee Secretary Nikki Chan.

School Establishes Free Little Library

By Dawn McPhail, Principal

(Lamoine) - Lamoine Consolidated School is now home to a Free Little Library! Located outside the main entrance, the Lamoine community is free to browse, borrow, love, and donate books. The charter sign has been ordered and is on the way. Upon delivery of the official charter number our Little Library will be added to the national registry of Little Libraries.

The library is open for business, and we would love to have you and your family check out all it has to offer. If you have any books (any ages) that you'd like to donate, please send them to Miss Miranda! Our Lions Library has a sister Little Library, the Tiger Library, at Surry Elementary School. We hope you'll visit one or both of them soon!

Honor Roll Released

First Trimester Lamoine Consolidated School Honors

Honors
Riley Smith (5)
Sophia Rosales (5)
Ryanna Brann (5)
Bode Phillips (5)
Cheyenne Ward (5)
Sydney Mason (5)
Brady Baldridge (5)
Calleigh Trenholm (5)
Ely Fleming (5)
Greyson Smith (5)
Harmony King (5)
Lilly Ball (5)
Quinton Johnson (5)
Dylan Stoll (5)
Ian Raymond (5)
Deuce Hamblin(6)
Abby Kimball (6)
Brianna Swanberg (6)
Brett Carr (7)
Elizabeth Evans (7)
Ella Montgomery (7)
Jacob Willard (7)
Jayson King (8)
Cayla Swanberg (8)

High Honors
Amelia Ashmore (5)
Jack Backman (5)
Jocelyn Wilson (6)
Bayley Baldridge (8)
Betta Cahn (8)
Violet Davis (8)
Paige Johnson (8)
Alex Yeadon (8)
Aiden Young (8)

Donors Choose School Projects

(Lamoine) - A website that helps publicize school projects has generated $4,444 for the Lamoine Consolidated School this past fall. School principal Dawn McPhail reports that it took just 3-days to raise $1,449 for a set of ukuleles for the music room through the Donors Choose website. Other projects funded included Apple Pencils (a computer device), a binding machine, lots of books, interactive flooring tiles, flexible seating materials, and sensory tools.

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Exercise Class Info

Each Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:15 a.m. a group of women and men of all ages meet at the Lamoine Baptist Church for a FREE Strength Building Exercise class.

The routine includes:

- Aerobic Warm up
- Upper body strength exercises using hand weights if desired
- Lower body strength exercises using leg weights if desired
- Cool Down with Yoga stretches
- The routine may be adapted to any age or fitness level. The program improves strength and balance.

For more information contact Iris 667-5094 or Mary 667-7083

Piebald Deer Observed

Photo by Mark Laney

(Lamoine) - Folks driving on Shore Road have reported seeing a white and brown deer during the fall. Resident Mark Laney was able to get a picture of what's termed a piebald deer. According to the hunting website MossyOak.com, the genetic mutation occurs in about one of every 30,000 deer. They are slightly less rare than albino deer and both parents have recessive piebald genes. The small deer managed to survive hunting season so far as we know.

Play Structure Awaits State OK

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) - With a spring/early summer 2020 installation goal in sight, the Lamoine's Little Children Committee is working hard to raise funds to install a nautically themed play structure at Lamoine Beach - just in time to be part of the culminating Lamoine 150 celebrations!

We envision three pieces for the play space which will be up from the beach very near the picnic tables. They will include 2 bouncing lobsters and a bouncy "trawler" designed to encourage imaginative play. All the pieces are geared toward children less than 6 years of age and comply with rigorous safety standards.

To date we have raised a little over $4125, a figure which includes a generous donation of $1000 from the Marlboro Yacht Club, and donations from many friends of Lamoine's very young children and their families. We are selling terrific "Lamoine 150 logo" baseball caps sized for children and adults to support the project and we will benefit from bottle collection at the transfer station in March. We also hope to be able to augment our fundraising through the pursuit of several grant possibilities. Our intent is to raise as much of the $10,000 cost as we possibly can. Any shortfall will be covered as the project is supported by the Parks Commission and backed by the town of Lamoine via the commission's 2019 town budget approval.

We welcome your tax deductible contributions to the project. (Checks should be made payable to our fiscal agent Special Children's Friends - noting Lamoine play structure in the memo line - and mailed to SCF at 78 Union St., Ellsworth). We will need help setting and grounding the structure next spring and contributions of people power will be welcomed then. For more information or if you'd like to join our committee, please contact Cynthia Donaldson at 667-2382 or donaldson.cynthia@gmail.com.

Thank You Patrons

(Lamoine) - The students and staff would like to extend a great big thank you to all the PATRONS volunteers who bring so much to our school. As always, the Halloween party, the craft fair, the penny sale, and the simply awesome Christmas brunch make for a wonderful and busy three months! These folks put in a great deal of time to keep these traditions alive and well in Lamoine, and we are very grateful.

January 2020– Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For an up to date schedule, consult the town's website, www.lamoine-me.gov			1—Town Office Closed	26:30 Rec Cmte. 7:00 Selectmen	3-Nomination Papers Due	4-Town Office Open 8-Noon
5	6-6PM Parks Cmsn 7PM Planning Brd	7-6:30 Cmty Ctr. Feasibility Cmte.	8—7PM Conservation Cmsn.	9-4PM Lamoine 150!	10	11
12-2-4PM Cribbage Fest @ Grange	13	14	15-8am Assessors 7PM Celebrating Our Community—@ Grange	16-7PM Selectmen	17	18
19	20-Town Office Closed 7PM Public Hrg (Shoreland Zone, Comp Plan)	21	22-630PM Appeals Board	23	24	25 -Town Office Open 8-Noon
26	27	28	29	30	31-Absentee Ballots Available	

February 2020-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
School Vacation—week of February 17						1 -Town Office Open 8-Noon
2	3-7PM Planning Board	4	5	6 - 6:30 Rec Cmte 7PM Selectmen	7	8
9	10	11-Day in the Life of Lamoine	12-7PM Conservation Cmsn	13	14	15
16	17-Office Closed, President's Day 6:30– Community Ctr. Study Cmte.	18	19	20-7PM Selectmen	21	22
23	24	25	26	27-Absentee Balloting Deadline	28	29 -Town Office Open 8-Noon

March 2020-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-Lamoine 150! Birthday Party	2-7PM Planning Board	3-Town, Presidential Primary Election 8-8	4	5-6:30 Rec Cmte 7PM Selectmen	6	7 -Town Office Open 8-Noon
8	9	10	11-7PM Conservation Cmsn	12	13	14
15	16	17	18-5:30—The 1st Town Meeting 6PM Open Town Meeting	19-7PM Selectmen	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 -Town Office Open 8-Noon
29	30	31		The town office will be closed at lunch from March 24-April 1 due to vacation		

The Lamoine Quarterly
January 2020

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Town of Lamoine
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