The Lamoine Quarterly

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Coronavirus Pandemic Closes School, Town Buildings

Lamoine Consolidated School Principal Dawn McPhail (left) and the school teaching staff hit the road in the "Magic School Bus" on March 16th to deliver laptops and tablets to the students homes as the school shut down for at least two weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers dressed in costumes normally reserved for the last day of school with one new character—Mrs. McPhail's Wicked Witch of the West.

(Lamoine) - The world changed in March as the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that began in China a pandemic. That declaration had huge impacts across the country and state, right into small municipalities like Lamoine. New terms like social distancing and presumptively positive became part of the lexicon. Stores suddenly had runs on items like pasta and toilet paper and shelves were empty, even though the virus would have no impact warranting stocking up on supplies. The economic impact was immediately felt by investors and businesses that chose to close had to lay off some of the most financially vulnerable workers.

The impact on town government created more of a challenge than a crisis. When Governor Janet Mills declared a state of civil emergency when the virus was first detected in Southern Maine, schools sprang into action, as did the Board of Selectmen. On March 14th, teachers and staff met at the school on their weekend off. The decision was made to close the school, initially effective on March 17, 2020 and remain closed until April 3rd. Teachers packed bags full of school supplies and electronic devices in an effort to conduct distance learning while both they and students were somewhat isolated at home.

The next day the state emergency declaration came out, and Superintendent Katrina Kane declared that school would not open on Monday the 16th either. That morning the school requested that parents pick up their children's bag of learning supplies at the school. Those unable to make it, got a real treat. Principal Dawn McPhail and several teachers and staff members put on costumes that they planned to wear on the last day of school and delivered the materials door to door. Superintendent Kane said that brought a smile to students faces, many of whom she said have been frightened by the pandemic. Kane said the plan is to completely disinfect the school, and teachers will work from home with their students utilizing the Internet for distance learning during the closure. Every other school in Hancock County also closed for a period of time in late March and early April.

On the municipal side of the town government Selectmen met in an emergency session on March 12th, the same day the first Maine case was reported. Meeting jointly with the Lamoine 150! Committee, the decision was made initially to proceed with the annual open town meeting that was scheduled for March 18, 2020. However, the planned meal the 8th grade was planning to offer was canceled, as was a skit depicting the first town meeting 150-years ago planned for a half hour before the meeting. Initially, the town meeting was going to proceed, as the recommendation from the Governor's Office was that gatherings of more than 250-people be postponed.

On March 15th, that recommendation changed, and gatherings of 50-people were strongly discouraged. Polling the Selectmen via e-mail on Monday the 16th, the decision was made to discourage voters from attending the open meeting, and that the Board intended to offer a motion to recess the meeting until a date certain. In consultation with Superintendent Kane and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, the plan now is to hold the annual town meeting on May 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the school gym. The recessed meeting will combine with the school budget town meeting on that evening, provided the social distancing recommendations are relaxed by then.

The recommendations from Maine CDC changed again, and gatherings of more than 10-people were discouraged. Many municipalities decided to bar the public from their town and city offices starting on the 16th. Administrator Marckoon developed a closure plan for the town hall between the 17th and the planned Selectmen's meeting on the 19th which closed the town hall to public access beginning on March 20th. Normal municipal transactions can still take place, but not in person. A detailed schedule (see page 2) of how to conduct municipal business utilizing the town's website, telephones, mail and an intercom system will allow the public to register vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, dogs, buy hunting and fishing licenses, pay property taxes and the like will eliminate public exposure between town workers and citizens until such time as it is safe to interact in person again.

The transfer station will remain open as the manager can observe traffic via a relatively new video camera system. Perhaps the biggest challenge to social distancing is the fire department. New protocols were put into place where members will first meet at the fire house and an officer would determine the number of people needed on scene and send that initial crew. If more manpower is needed, the officer in charge may request more by radio. The new response protocol will likely delay response of apparatus and manpower to the scene by a few minutes, but it will also minimize patient exposure from fire personnel in an effort to maintain social distancing. The public will not have access to the fire station during the closure order, even during calls.

The new methods of doing business are posted on the town's website with links to on-line service sites. All of the full time town office staff is paid by salary and will not be charged for sick time during the duration of the public building closure. At least one person will staff the town office during the usual business hours to handle phone calls, e-mails and intercom service.

The intercom system was installed in late March. The paperwork exchange will be done through the mail slot in the front door.

The Code Enforcement Officer will not be holding office hours during the closure. Permit applications can be submitted by e-mail, snail mail, or put into the mail slot on the town office front door. They will be scanned and e-mailed to the CEO for processing. Urgent inspections will be conducted by appointment only.

How to Conduct Town Business During Town Hall Closure Period

(Lamoine) - The town office staff has developed a comprehensive backup plan for delivering the various services that citizens require for however long the COVID-19 pandemic lasts. The goal is to offer nearly all services with as little inconvenience as possible. Here are some important pieces of information to keep in mind:

Website: www.lamoine-me.gov
Telephone: (207) 667-2242
Fax: (207) 664-2755
Email: town@lamoine-me.gov
Mailing Address: Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605

Intercom: A front door intercom is on order. If the methods listed above are not an option, please knock firmly on the front door and we'll chat with you through the mail slot.

Motor Vehicle Registrations

Re-Registration– The easiest way to accomplish this is through the Rapid Renewal program in which the town participates. You will need your old registration, insurance card and current mileage. To log on, visit the town's webpage and scroll to on-line services and pick rapid renewal. You can pay by e-check (information from your bank checking account) or by credit/debit card. A 2.5% fee is charged for card use. You will be issued a temporary registration once the renewal is complete, and when the Bureau of Motor Vehicles reopens, your permanent registration and stickers will be mailed. If you wish to call the town office, we can do the transaction over the phone using a credit card (fee still charged), or you can call to get the cost, and mail a check, a copy of your insurance card, current mileage and a self addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail back the registration and stickers.

New Registration –Maine Dealer Sale and you have plates—This can be done by phone and e-mail/fax only, but the registration should be able to be completed without involving the Bureau of Motor Vehicles by either transferring the plates, or using a set of plates for a new registration.

New Registration/Private Sale—The town only collects excise tax on this transaction, the rest must be done by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This can be done by phone or mail. The town office can mail the excise tax forms, title application form and sales tax form back, and the rest will have to go through the BMV.

Property Tax Payment

Taxes were due in full on February 28th. If you are late, please call the town office for the correct amount of tax and interest. We can process a credit card (with the 2.5% fee) over the phone, or you can mail a check for the correct amount. There is an on-line payment option which requires card use. We encourage the phone call option. Tax liens will be filed in either late June or early July.

Hunting & Fishing Licenses, ATV and Boat Registrations

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has a very good on-line system to take care of these items, and they are linked through the town's website. If you don't have internet access, we can do it by phone or e-mail. Card payments will impose the 2.5% fee.

Vital Records

An application to request the record must be filled out. It can be downloaded from the town's website, and you can snap a picture with your cell phone and e-mail that along with proof of identity to the town office. We will call you back to verify that we have the record you seek and to collect your credit card info for payment and then issue the vital record by mail. If you wish to file marriage intentions, that will have to be done by appointment, in person. We ask that you call ahead of time. We will e-mail the intention form, ask that you e-mail or mail it back, or drop it off. The marriage license will be generated and we'll call when it's ready to sign and be issued.

Dog Licensing

If you have not re-licensed your dog, there is a $25.00 late fee imposed after February 1st. If this is a first time dog registration, there is no late fee. The on-line registration option is not available after January 31st. Please call the town office, and we'll collect your rabies information and credit card payment (only a $1 card fee for a dog registration).

Burn Permits

There is an option to obtain a burn permit on the town's website through the Maine Forest Service. There is a $7.00 fee. If you wish to get one from the town fire warden, call the town office. We can e-mail you the permit, depending on fire conditions, at no charge. We will ask you to confirm that you acknowledge the conditions on the permit by email.

Shellfish Harvesting Licenses

We can take care of this over the phone. Payment will have to be by credit card, but the fee to use the card is $1.00.

General Assistance

Please call the town office during regular business hours if you wish to apply for assistance. Information and a short interview will be conducted over the phone and the administrator will make a decision within 24-hours. A written decision will be mailed.

Moorings

Renewal notices have gone out in the mail and this is generally done through the mail and paid by check. Telephone renewals can be done with a credit card.

Construction Permits

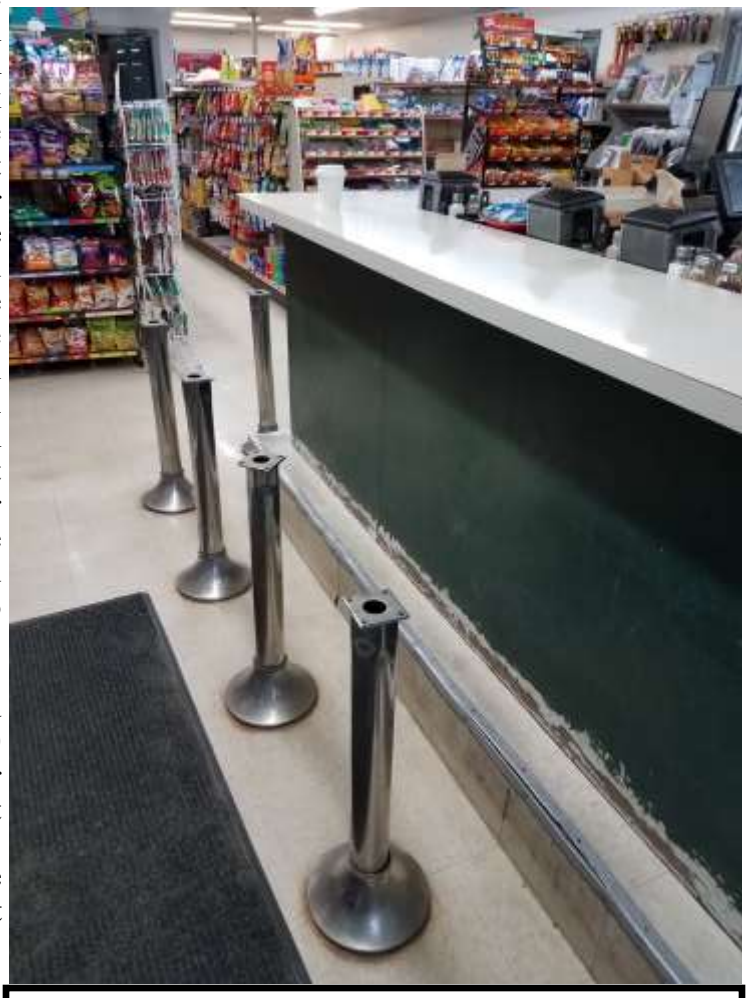
Applications can be obtained on the website or we can e-mail one. When it's filled out, e-mail it back and we will forward it to the Code Enforcement Officer for processing. If the application is in order, we will mail the permit.

Real Estate Inquiries

Some information is on the website, but it's best to either phone or e-mail, and we can scan and e-mail the tax card.

Services we can't do

Until the town office reopens, we cannot do photocopy and Notarization services.



Dine In Option Closed Down
Workers at the Lamoine Market Place (often referred to as the "General Store") removed the seat tops at the breakfast/lunch counter following an order by Governor Janet Mills for restaurants to cease offering dine-in service. A popular social gathering spot for breakfast and lunch, it was eerily quiet the next day.

Meetings Canceled, Postponed by COVID-19

(Lamoine) - The scheduled annual town meeting on March 18, 2020 drew only 6 people; four Selectmen, the Deputy Moderator, and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs. It was by design following social distancing orders from Governor Mills which banned meetings of more than 10-people. As Deputy Moderator Stu Marckoon officially opened the session, the first and only motion made by Selectman Jo Cooper was to recess until May 26th. The motion passed swiftly and unanimously in the meeting that took less than one minute.

Selectmen canceled meetings between March 20 and April 1st in an initial emergency order. It's not known how long that order might be extended. The only meeting scheduled in that period was a Board of Appeals meeting on the latest appeal involving a residence built on Marlboro Beach Road. Board vice-chair Jon VanAmringe did not give a reschedule date when ordering the meeting postponed.

A presentation by the Conservation Commission in April, and the Planning Board meeting in April are canceled. Selectmen were slated to meet on April 2nd. That may be done by remote means, if at all. Instead, Selectman may just sign a warrant.

Cupola Repairs to Proceed

(Lamoine) - The town hall's cupola project will move forward, despite the delay in town meeting. The project is actually in two parts—one to remove the old school bell from the tower, and the other to repair the louvers and the room. The Selectmen placed an item on the town meeting warrant to fund the project from the capital improvements fund during the 2019/20 fiscal year that ends in July.

Mid-Maine restorations based in the Waterville area has agreed to do the projects, but wished to combine them into one. The company specializes in church steeples, and closely looked over the issues that have led to a fairly significant water leak in the town hall. One of the issues was a hole in the roof where rain and melting snow easily penetrate.

The company is scheduling the project and should have an exact date of work. Selectmen voted to proceed the night after the annual town meeting was postponed to May 26th. They noted that the work needs to be done in order to prevent further damage to the town hall, and there has been no opposition heard. The improvement fund has sufficient money to find the repairs. A work date should be set in May.

Community Center Discussed With School

(Lamoine) - When it comes for a place for a sizable number of people to gather together, there is just one facility in town—the gym at the Lamoine Consolidated School. Even that has a lot of inadequacies. The basketball court is not regulation size (you can't shoot a 3-pointer), parking at the school is limited, and it's not always readily available for non-school functions.

For about a year now, the special Community Center Feasibility Study Committee has been studying the need and community interest in establishing some sort of community center. At the same time, the Lamoine School Committee has begun discussing a significant upgrade to the existing K-8 school. The school department has engaged Oak Point Associates to explore a plan to possibly reconfigure the school. One of the goals is to eliminate the two portable classrooms, one of which has been in use for well over 30-years. There is no running water to the one in front of the school, and no bathroom facility. The other unit, while newer, has some severe limitations as well.

When the Coronavirus situation returns to something closer to normal, the hope is for representatives of the Community Center Committee, the school and Oak Point to discuss working a community center concept into any school expansion plan. No formal date has yet been established for the meeting, and no cost estimate is under discussion.

Several Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright approved the following permits during the first quarter of 2020:

Nbr	Name	Project
1	Belch, Tony	Residence, Garage
2	Charles, Francis	Boat Storage
3	Parks Cmsn	Playground
4	Fire Dept.	Storage Units
5	Durrell, Stacey	Bridge
6	State of ME	DMR Lab Addn/
7	Jordan, David	Residence, Garage

In addition to the permits above, four plumbing permits were issued. Two were for new septic systems, one for a replacement septic field, and one internal plumbing permit.

During the town office closure, CEO Rebecca Albright is working from home. Permit applications can be submitted to the town office and staff will e-mail the applications to Albright for approval. Urgent inspections may be requested from the town office who will contact the CEO to arrange for an inspection appointment.

Appeals Board Opening

(Lamoine) Alternate Appeals Board member Karen Hood has resigned from the position. People interested in filling the seat should contact the town office or a Selectmen for appointment to the post.

Planning Board to Tackle Gravel Permits Later

(Lamoine) - In keeping with state recommended social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Lamoine Planning Board has canceled its scheduled meeting in April. The only matter before the board involves gravel permit renewals for several pits owned and operated by Doug Gott and Sons. Planning Board Chair John Holt says the expiration dates for those permits are a few months away. Depending on the state of matters, Holt says the board may grant temporary extensions. Another gravel permit in the Marlboro area expires in July and owner Jesse Cameron says his renewal process has been significantly slowed by the pandemic. Holt said the Planning Board will work to accommodate Mr. Cameron as well.

Shoreland, Comp Plan On Hold

(Lamoine) - Final approvals to the town's Comprehensive Plan and an updated Shoreland Zoning Ordinance are delayed until at least May 26th due to the recessed town meeting. Both remain on the town meeting warrant.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee which worked for nearly 4-years on the plan that received initial approval a year go was supposed to disband after the final approval. Chairman Fred Stocking, who said he very much looked forward to turning in his town hall key, informed the state of the delay.

Latest Tall House Appeal On Hold

(Lamoine) - A second appeal of a Code Enforcement Officer's decision regarding a house alleged by neighbor to exceed the town's 35-foot building height is on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The appeal is from the Code Enforcement Officer's (CEO) redetermination of her original opinion that the house constructed more than a year ago was not in violation. CEO Rebecca Albright told the Board of Appeals that the house was constructed according to plans submitted by owner Thomas True. The Appeals Board had asked Albright take a measurement from the original grade instead of the finished grade. Albright noted that the original grade only existed on the shore side of the building, and the height is the same that showed in the permit application submitted in 2018 by True which was granted.

Neighboring property owner Alan Moldawer appealed the redetermination memorandum as not following the direction given by the Appeals Board. The Appeals Board met in early March and started reviewing a host of questions before scheduling a hearing. The board left off its list at the point of trying to determine whether it has jurisdiction to hear an appeal of the CEO's redetermination. The board had scheduled to resume that deliberation on March 25th, but the meeting was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID -19 pandemic. The Board of Appeals is receiving advice from attorney James Collier of Bar Harbor who indicated during the March 4th meeting that the board may not have jurisdiction.

Lawsuit Updates

(Lamoine) - A pair of matters before the Maine Court System involving the town had some progress during the past quarter. The Maine Supreme Court heard oral arguments from Harold MacQuinn, Inc. and a citizens group called Friends of Lamoine in regard to the proposed expansion of a gravel mining operation near Lamoine Corner. At issue is whether an Appeals Board ruling to grant the permit should prevail after the Planning Board, which had denied the permit, followed the Appeals Board ruling and granted it. The Friends of Lamoine appealed the permit grant and it was overturned in the Business and Consumer Court. MacQuinn appealed that court's ruling. The town did not present any argument before the high court. A ruling is possible in the next few weeks.

The other case involves the same gravel mining area to some extent as MacQuinn's attorney alleged that the Planning Board violated the state's Freedom of Access Act when members remained in the building for a few minutes following a meeting's adjournment. Attorneys Edward Bearor and Katie Foster requested minutes for that time, but minutes were not taken. Planning Board chair John Holt says the conversations did not involve any matters before the board. The town has submitted answers to several questions.

Chicken Regulations Explored

(Lamoine) - A Birchlawn Drive couple whose neighbor keeps chickens has asked the Board of Selectmen to explore an ordinance to offer some sort of protection. The neighbors have filed numerous animal trespass complaints as the chickens have often wandered onto their property, destroying vegetation. The town's Animal Control Officer summoned the chicken keepers and the case went to trial last year, resulting in a small fine.

The neighboring property owners say they're particularly frustrated by a crowing rooster. The town currently has no ordinance barring backyard chickens in any of the town's three zones. Birchlawn is located in the residential zone.

Selectmen expressed caution on whether to create regulations in a town where agriculture is a way of life for many. Several dozen towns in Maine have instituted ordinances to set limits on where chickens can be kept, banning roosters in more residential areas because of the disturbances they cause. An ordinance is still under study.

Lamoine 150! Plans Altered

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) - Your Lamoine 150 Committee is hoping that all our friends and neighbors are staying safe and doing what we can to keep others safe. The threat of this virus is surely testing us as a community.

We have canceled our Celebrating Our Story event April 15 and the performance of "King Muttonhead" May 1-3. When our town and state leaders say it's safe to be together again, we'll reschedule!

In the meantime, planning is on hold for our 150 Festival Weekend planned for August 14, 15, and 16. Due to the Stay at Home order issued in late March, it's not clear when we can move forward. The Lamoine Fire Department has canceled plans for their auction that would have been held during that weekend due to the economy.

Let us know your ideas and stay in touch with our activities at Lamoine 150! on Facebook and on the town's website, www.lamoine-me.gov

Fire Calls Slow Significantly

(Lamoine) - Perhaps a mild winter helped, but the number of fire department calls for the Lamoine VFD fell sharply in the first quarter of the year. Firefighters had responded to 13-calls by late March compared to 27 the year before. None of the calls are particularly serious. Five of the calls were for out of town incidents, mostly for station coverage.

The fire department responded to two auto accidents in Lamoine, neither saw any serious injury. Cooking set off smoke detectors that resulted in a fire department response to homes and businesses with monitored alarm systems. The LVFD crew assisted Northern Light Ambulance on a couple of calls. And a fire truck stood by on Mud Creek Road when a kite eating utility pole snagged a snack that got wrapped up in a transformer and live wires. Emera Maine linemen retrieved the kite, saying that was a first for them. The kite was returned to it's owner.

Fire Response Protocols Working

(Lamoine) - Since instituting the new response system, the Lamoine Fire Department has received a couple of calls, and response time was not significantly increased. With members reporting to the station instead of to the scene directly, the number of firefighters going to the scene has been appropriate for the call. The other side benefit has been that with more people home, the numbers able to respond during the day have increased. An alarm call in late March at 9:30 in the morning saw 10 volunteers respond to the station. A similar call typically would draw far fewer volunteer firefighters for a daytime call.

Emergency Supply Donations Help

(Lamoine) - With a nationwide shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the fire department was caught a little short for potential ambulance assist responses. Our thanks to Jo Cooper, Peter Goebel, Arthur Ashmore and David Scolfield who were most kind to drop off protective masks. A special response kit has been assembled on one of the fire apparatus for such calls.

The department has requested other supplies from the State Emergency Management Office. It's not known if or when such supplies might arrive.

Three Parcels Tax Acquired

(Lamoine) - The automatic tax lien foreclosure process has resulted in the acquisition of three properties, all located on Needles Eye Road. Per town meeting guidance, the town offered two pieces of land back to the former owner, without response. The Board of Selectmen is expected to place those two parcels up for auction at their meeting in April. One parcel is 2.4 acres in size and assessed at $32,100. The minimum bid price is expected to be $2,000. The other parcel is a small (.15 acres) triangular piece across the road. It's unlikely that any building could take place on such a small parcel, but it could be suitable for an abutting landowner.

The other tax acquired parcel is a vacant house of a deceased taxpayer. The town has contacted the USDA Rural Development agency which holds a mortgage on the property and awaits action on payment of back taxes. During the COVID-19 State of Emergency it's not known if the agency will exercise its option to obtain a deed from the town.

Solar Project Dormant for Now

(Lamoine) - A proposal to lease town land on property occupied by the former landfill may not materialize right away, if ever. For several months SunPower Corporation had explored leasing the land for a major solar array. It ran into a couple of fairly major problems.

Some of the proposed site appears to be a wetlands area, off limits for solar arrays. Perhaps the bigger issue, though, is the proximity to 3-phase power. The 3-phase lines end at the Lamoine Consolidated School, nearly 3/4 a mile from the proposed solar site. Sunpower says it would cost approximately $750-thousand dollars to run the 3-phase line that distance. Weekly briefings came to a halt in January. It's not clear when discussions might resume.

Electronic Waste Day is June 20

(Lamoine) - The town's Conservation Commission has arranged for an electronic waste collection on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at the lot next to the transfer station. Electronics End of Brewer will gather up old computers, TV's, monitors and other items that are not supposed to get thrown out with the regular waste. This will mark at least the third time the company has collected waste in Lamoine. Residents from other communities are also welcome to drop off their E-waste. There is no charge, but donations are accepted.

Transfer Station Design Revision

(Lamoine) - An initial concept re-design of the Lamoine Transfer Station is back with engineering company CES for a different concept. The initial design envisioned a drive through building where compactors for trash and recycling were enclosed. Selectmen said that concept was likely beyond affordable for the town, and met with Engineer Chip Reeves in early March. CES will rework the concept to an expandable project. The goal of the town is to compact materials to significantly cut down on transportation costs.

New Selectboard Chair Selected

(Lamoine) - Selectman Kathleen Rybarz was chosen by her fellow board members to chair the board until the municipal election in 2021. The Selectboard has rotated the chairmanship for the past several years, and Rybarz had not yet taken a turn at the helm.

The new chair said she would like to have a moment each meeting for comments from the public in attendance and from Selectmen regarding any topic that might not be on the printed agenda. Chairman Rybarz was first elected to the Selectboard in 2016

History Corner

Aunt Eunice, and the Day the Lights Went Out All Over the World

By Gordon Donaldson & Gary McFarland

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Marion McFarland was a teenager in 1945. She recently shared her recollections of May 8 of that year, a day when Lamoine got word of the German surrender.

"Living in Lamoine", Marion said, "we were very much aware of the war during those years." The area was on high alert amid suspicions that German agents might land from U-boats. A U.S. Army unit stationed on High Street in Ellsworth patrolled through Lamoine in their jeeps every day. Two military blimps stationed at the Trenton Airport made twice-a-day reconnaissance over Lamoine and out over the Bay. All window shades had to be pulled down at night. In December of 1944, two spies were arrested in New York; it turned out they had landed on Hancock Point.

After years of worry and tension, news of Hitler's surrender reached Maine on May 8, 1945. For Marion and many others, the events brought relief and jubilation. It was a Tuesday, "Grange meeting night", Marion remembers. "I'll never forget how Eunice Young, known to many as Aunt Eunice, found out about the news. Aunt Eunice was a very giving and caring quiet lady, not a loud person at all." She was the first woman elected to a town office in 1922 and had served as Town Clerk and Treasurer since then.

"News in those days didn't travel fast," Marion explained. "Some had phones, but more had radios. And news of the war was often kept quiet. You never knew when a battle or a sinking ship might have involved a local boy . Your neighbors were not on the road socializing, because there was no gas. Everything was rationed! We were quite isolated, when you think about it."

Many things were scarce because of the war, including light bulbs. "When a light went out," Marion said, "if you could buy a bulb you were lucky. Now, Eunice never wasted a thing! With her giving spirit, she would every week on Grange night take a light bulb from her kitchen light, wrap it carefully, put it in her "carry all" bag and take it to the Grange Hall. She would put it in the fixture in the women's coatroom so they would have light. Then she would take it out after the meeting and put it back in her bag to take home. She did that every week!"

"Eunice came to the meeting that night not knowing the news that the Germans had surrendered. She was standing in the coatroom as the doors opened. [Lincoln Davis was driving round and round in his home-made, stripped-down tractor dragging two sets of chains and a stuffed form with a sign on it [reading] "Hitler" and sounding his horn.

"About six of us girls had just arrived and came through the door at the same time, each hollering very loud. Eunice inquired as to *what* was going on. And we all said, 'Eunice, the war is over'. This news was totally unexpected. Eunice turned around a couple of times, not knowing what to do. [Then] she reached into her "carry all" bag, took out her carefully preserved bulb, and *DROVE it into the corner with a loud blast*! Yes, Aunt Eunice, the war was over!"

Marion reports that there was "quite an evening of celebration". But it was Aunt Eunice's dramatic flourish that made such a lasting memory. "She was so quiet and so widely respected. She was one who never wasted a thing. She carried that light bulb back and forth so carefully. When she hurled it into the corner, that was a big deal to us girls! SHE BROKE A BULB! SHE BROKE A BULB that was PRECIOUS! Yes, Aunt Eunice, the war is over. We can now buy light bulbs. The lights will go on again all over the world!"

Home Based Maple Syrup Making Popular

(Lamoine) - It costs nothing for the raw materials says retired minister John Holt, just my time and energy. The chairman of Lamoine's Planning Board spends a great deal of time in the late winter and early spring making maple syrup, an activity that several other Lamoine residents also do for a hobby. The town has a fairly good crop of sap producing maple trees that each spring sport metal taps punched in and a plastic or metal collection bucket to catch the clear sap that runs through the tree veins. Along the route, the sap collects sugars and flavor from the tree's insides as it carries nutrients to and from the branches and yet to emerge leaf buds as the winter freeze lets go.

(Above) - A maple tree tap awaits a sap flow at John Holt's Lamoine Beach Road home. (Right) - The transfer of bucket of clear sap into the initial warming pot. (Below) Holt pours a the pot full of warmed sap into a pan called an evaporator to boil it down into maple syrup.

Holt has tapped the large maples on his own property and some neighbors allow him to collect sap from their trees. On a regular basis he collects the buckets full of liquid and places them in his storage area to await the next boil. The heat source for Holt's boiler is just fire wood—all of it from trees that have blown down on his property during wind storms over the previous year—thus the free heat source.

The syrup production is totally dependent on the weather. It takes the right conditions to have the sap flowing, Holt and others started tapping their trees a little earlier than usual in 2020 thanks to a relatively mild and snow free winter. Freezing cold nights and warm days make for the best sap flow conditions, and the winter this year featured stretches of those conditions. Sap can flow for up to a month and a half in some trees, but the earlier the better for sap collection.

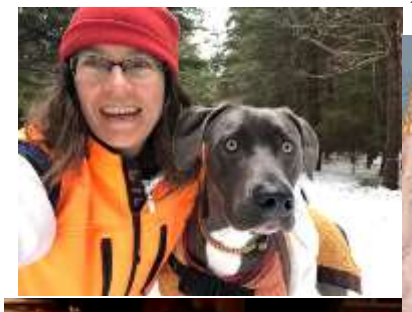
It takes a lot of time and sap to make a gallon of maple syrup. Volumes vary depending on the amount of sugar in the sap, but it takes Holt anywhere from 25 to 40 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. And there's a lot of science too it, with varying methods of boiling down and filtering syrup along the way. After the liquid comes out of the evaporator pan, there is still more heating to do before the syrup can go into a bottle to get the consistency and sugar content. That generally involves boiling the evaporated sap to 219-degrees on a strictly heat controlled stove top.

The recreational syrup producers in town are not allowed to sell the end product in a retail setting unless they are licensed by the State of Maine. There are a lot of strict regulations a licensed maple syrup manufacture has to follow. Details are available through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Generally syrup makers in town "give away" some of their product, with recipients reciprocating with their own gifts. Oh, and they use it on pancakes, too!

A Day in the Life (Of Lamoine)

(Lamoine) - The challenge from the committee organizing the 150th birthday of Lamoine was simply to take a picture on the day the Maine Legislature approved of us becoming a town. The date—February 11, 2020. The results—Fantastic!. Enjoy just some of the pictures.

Clockwise from top left: School Principal Dawn McPhail, Marlboro Beach, the town line sign on Mud Creek Road, legendary runner Robin Emery, Photographer Georgianna Pulver, Lamoine Baptist Church & Forest Hill Cemetery in the fog, Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair Fred Stocking at the Town Hall, Mud Creek at flood tied, a plow truck at the salt/sand storage shed, The Lamoine School Committee, Enid and Bill Neleski and their daughter Patti Haslam, Conservation Commission chair Larissa Thomas (and her dog), Postal Service Rural Route Carrier Carol Allen, Lamoine Community Arts co-founder Carol Korty, and to the right (left to right), Fire Department Assistant Chief Joe Reynolds, Chief George "Skip" Smith, and Lt. Joe Young as they returned from an ambulance assist call. Many thanks to Carol Duffy who coordinated the scores of pictures e-mailed to the 150! Committee. Needless to say they didn't all fit on one page of the Lamoine Quarterly, but Carol put them together in an electronic slide show which was presented at the official birthday party at the Lamoine School Gym on March 1st. (The cake is from the party). Thanks to all who participated!



Half Marathon Draw Large Field

(Lamoine) - A 13-mile journey around the narrow and hilly roads around Lamoine drew 67-runners to town on March 7th. The Lamoine Half Marathon has quietly grown in popularity. Starting at Lamoine Beach Park, the half marathon winds around town for 13.1 miles.

Finishing first this year was Thomas Windle in a time of 1:18:43. Bar Harbor's Judson Cake was 2nd in 1:19:55. The first woman to finish the race was Jasmine Fowler in 1:40:45. The event was one of the last sporting events in the region as the COVID-19 pandemic shut down most sports the week after.

Community Arts Scholarship

By Anne Labossiere

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Community Arts Scholarship Committee is seeking applicants for its partial scholarships to programs in the arts for students in grades K-12. To be eligible for one of these partial scholarships, a K-12 student must live in Lamoine or attend the Lamoine Consolidated School. Applications will also be accepted from students who have a parent who works in Lamoine or is a member of Lamoine Community Arts. Partial scholarships were given to three students in 2019. We are hoping to match or exceed that number in 2020.

In an effort to generate a greater interest in these scholarships, we will consider programs or lessons related to all arts including music, art, dance, theater, visual arts, fiber arts, robotics, culinary art, wood working, spinning, boat building, photography, basket making. If the "art" of interest is not listed, please contact the chair of the committee, Anne LaBossiere. At 667-6765 or alabossier@aol.com.

To obtain an application, pick one up from Betty Eaton at the Lamoine Consolidated School or contact Anne LaBossiere.

Hodgkins Scholarship Deadline Nears

(Lamoine) - College students from Lamoine are highly encouraged to apply for the Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Scholarships. The application deadline is June 1, 2020, and the Board of Selectmen will recommend the awards at their first meeting in June.

The scholarship fund has more than $20,000 available for Lamoine residents attending college. Last year's recipients received very sizable awards.

The application is posted on the town's website under the bulletin board. The Maine Community Foundation administers the scholarships, notifying students of their selection and sending checks to the colleges they attend. The awards are decided by a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen. Dr. & Mrs. Hodgkins left a very sizable bequeath for the scholarships several years ago. Interest on the gift funds the scholarship.

Flattop 5K Postponed

(Lamoine) - Another casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic is the Flattop 5K road race held in late March or early April, beginning and ending at the Lamoine School. The race was originally planned for March 28th. Organizers Robin Emery and Tom Kirby said they were saddened to have to call off the first of the season race. The event may be rescheduled sometime during the summer.

Shellfish Warden to be Contracted

(Ellsworth) - The Regional Shellfishing region made up of 7-towns is advertising for two independent contractors to work as the enforcement arm to the multi-town agreement. The Ellsworth Police Department currently employs the Shellfish Warden, but has indicated it would like to eliminate the position. City officials in Ellsworth have told the Regional Shellfish Joint Board that it believes the warden position can be contracted out instead of the person being an employee of a police agency. The area covered by the joint ordinance includes Ellsworth, Lamoine, Trenton, Hancock, Sullivan Sorrento and Franklin.

IT Director Position Discussed

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has asked the Technology Committee to weigh in on whether the town ought to hire an Information Technology Director. Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon says the increasingly complex computer and TV systems require a fair amount of time to manage, and it takes a lot of expertise to do it correctly. He and Technology Committee chair Bill Butler draw up a proposed job description for part time position.

The COVID-19 emergency canceled a planned meeting in March to discuss the idea. The funding for the position is proposed to come from the Cable TV fund which is largely supported by franchise fees received from the cable TV company (Charter Communications/ Spectrum) which serves Lamoine.

The Census Knows Lamoiners Don't Live in Ellsworth.

(Lamoine) - Lamoine, Trenton, Mariaville, Otis and Osborne all share the 04605 zip code with Ellsworth. For years, computer programs will automatically fill in Ellsworth when the zip code is typed in. The US Census Bureau mailed letters asking people to fill out their census information in March, and sure enough, the addresses showed the correct street name, but Lamoine's city was listed as Ellsworth.

Selectboard Chair Kathleen Rybarz inquired whether Lamoine residents would be counted as Ellsworth residents instead. Town office staff contacted the liaison with the Census Bureau. He said the Census Bureau maps areas differently than the post office, and the information should be correctly attributed to Lamoine.

Little Children's Play Structure On Course

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) - As we struggle to accommodate the changes in our personal schedules and plans and needs, we are keenly aware of the stresses these times are putting on families and their little children. Our wish for you is just what Lamoine's 2013 town meeting resolve promises: …. "a nurturing family and neighborhood; a community that values young children; a quality education; and support."

As we carefully travel through this time, we take some very real pleasure in imagining installing our play structures at Lamoine Beach when the time is right. The bouncy trawler and two bouncy lobsters have been ordered and will arrive in Lamoine in the next several weeks. They will be stored under cover, waiting for the day when we can begin the process of putting them together and setting them. They will provide a wonderful new prompt to imaginative play at the beach, calling children to climb aboard.

We will continue our fund raising efforts as we are able, and we will resume our meetings when it is safe to do so. We invite you to join us! And if you have questions about our group or suggestions for how our group can support little children and their "people", please let us know. (Cynthia Donaldson 667-2382 donaldson.cynthia@gmail.com)

Budget Cmte Vacancies Filled, Parks Open

(Lamoine)- Selectmen have appointed Greg Hiltz and Mark Harris as members of the Lamoine Budget Committee. They fill a pair of vacancies created when committee members Marion McDevitt asked not to be reappointed and Connie Bender moved to Texas. Both new members have an interest in the municipal budgeting process.

The Lamoine Parks Commission is down one full member as Doug Jones retired from the board effective in April. Jones is a retired National Park Service employee. Anyone interested in filling his position should contact the town hall.

April 2020 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings have been canceled until such time as the state of emergency is lifted. Dates listed for meetings are planned meeting times. Check the town's website to see the correct schedule			1-Board of Assessors (8am)	2-Board of Selectmen 7PM (via Zoom Meeting)	3	4-The town office will not open until State of Emergency is lifted
5	6-Planning Board (canceled) Parks Commission (canceled)	7	8-Conservation Commission (Canceled)	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16-Board of Selectmen 7PM (likely via Zoom Meeting)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25-Town Office open 8 -12
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020 –Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2-Town Office open 8-12
3	4-7PM Planning Board	5	6-8AM Board of Assessors	7—6:30 PM Recreation Cmte 7PM Board of Selectmen	8	9
10	11	12	13-7PM Conservation Commission	14	15	16
17	18-6:30 PM Budget Cmte	19	20	21—7PM Board of Selectmen	22	23
24	25-Town Office Closed (Memorial Day)	26-Town Meeting 6PM@ School	27	28	29	30-Town Office open 8 -12
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June 2020-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-6:30 Planning Board Hodgkins Scholarship Deadline	2	3-8AM Board of Assessors	4-6:30 Recreation Cmte 7PM Board of Selectmen	5	6-Town Office open 8-12
7	8	9-8am-8pm Primary Election Day	10-7PM Conservation Commission	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18-7PM Board of Selectmen	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27-Town Office open 8 -12
28	29	30-Fiscal Year Ends				

The Lamoine Quarterly
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Town of Lamoine
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