The Lamoine Quarterly

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Educating Youngsters in COVID Era

Teacher Ann Backman is all smiles under her mask as community members provided each staffer at the Lamoine Consolidated School with gift bags to show appreciation for the hard work done to get ready for the new school year.

(Lamoine) - School officials spent the summer preparing the Lamoine Consolidated School classrooms for the return of students in a new era of education during a pandemic. It wasn't fun. Faced with complex state guidelines, the experience in Lamoine was similar to every other community in the state. The first day of school on September 8th was a test as actual students arrived, and school officials had their first taste of socially distanced education inside the classrooms. As Principal Dawn McPhail put it, they had to change a lot of things during the next few days to make it work. That included an earlier dismissal time as students were attending partial days. Teachers also had to deliver both in-person classes and classes by remote learning students who opted to receive instruction at home instead of at the school building. That came on top of trying to figure out how to best comply with state guidelines in place to do as much as possible to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. To say it was exhausting was an understatement.

Superintendent Katrina Kane and School Committee member Gordon Donaldson briefed the Board of Selectmen on how the school was doing the a mid-September meeting. In a memorandum to the Selectmen, the school committee asked for help from the community so that the school can remain open to in-person education. The school department will discuss a town-wide effort to keep the virus from spreading within the community. Details of that effort were still being worked out at press time.

Showing Some Love

While the teachers and building staff were struggling to get things ready, community members took notice, and not just the parents of school children. Iris Simon contacted the Board of Selectmen to see what could be done to appropriately express the community's gratitude. The Board suggested gathering items for gift bags. Simon, Georgia Munsell, and recently retired

teacher Carol Duffy flew into action. In a 48-hour period they sent e-mail to friends around the community and found a donor to match up to $2,600 in donations. Lamoine Marketplace owner Kim Murphy donated gift cards and other items. Friends of Acadia donated memberships and promotional items.

Selectboard Chair Kathleen Rybarz joined Simon and Duffy, put together the gift bags, and presented them at a surprise after school, socially distanced gathering. Principal Dawn McPhail said the gesture was especially meaningful as it came from the community, beyond those with students at the school.

Pole Fire Leaves Raptors Homeless

(Lamoine) - Fire destroyed one of the most photographed spots in Lamoine in mid-August as an Osprey nest on Mud Creek Road went up in flames. After seeing the nest's plight on the town's Facebook page, social media was abuzz with concern about the birds' well-being. Luckily, the two offspring that hatched in the summer of 2020 had recently fledged, and none of the birds were harmed as the nest burned to the ground.

(Above) The Osprey Nest at the "S" turn on the Mud Creek Road was destroyed by an electrical fire on August 18th. (Right—Versant Power crews finish up work on a new pole with a platform to take its place.

Neighbor Harrison Pinkham stopped into the town office to report the nest ablaze, and the fire department was alerted. As the first truck arrived, the power lines running through the pole fell into Mud Creek Road on one side, and into the creek on the other.

Versant Power was quick to the scene to restore power. And the utility was already making plans the next day when town officials inquired whether a new pole with a platform could be installed. A couple of weeks later (after having to drill through ledge), the new platform pole was in place, under the watchful eyes of the former nest tenants who will likely fly south for the winter and return and rebuild next spring. The platform is well above any power lines, which should eliminate the danger of future blazes.

The Lamoine VFD's Ladder 404 made its fire-fighting debut August 29, 2020 at this structure fire on Mud Creek Road just over the town line on Mud Creek Road. *See full story on Page 5*

Correction Corner

(Lamoine) - A couple of corrections from the *July 2020 Lamoine Quarterly:*

- The article regarding the Planning Board meeting contained an error regarding a proposal to replace a non-conforming home. The Board did not approve the new location. Instead, the property owner revised building plans to conform with the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.
- An article regarding the new Emergency Operations Plan caught the eye of the County Emergency Management Agency which contacted the town and reminded officials to have them review the update. Following that very thorough input, some minor corrections were made to the updated plan.

Short Term Rental Rules Clarified

(Lamoine) - It's no secret that a lot of property owners in town run Air B&B businesses where they rent out rooms or entire homes during the summer months. The town does not specifically regulate such activity, but there are limitations. Adding a second kitchen can trigger the definition of a second dwelling unit, which in a recent case resulted in a complaint that an Ice House Lane resident had an illegal 2nd unit in their Shoreland home and was renting it through Airbnb. As a result Planning Board chair John Holt issued a memorandum that clarified what is and is not allowed.

If a separate unit is used inside a home, it must have a building (and if applicable) a Shoreland Zoning permit . Each dwelling unit requires 40,000 square feet of land and 200-feet of road and shore (if applicable) frontage. Septic systems must be properly sized.

Entire home rentals are permitted without regulation. The length of stay is not regulated by ordinance.

Holt's memo reminds property owners that with Planning Board approval is needed to convert to a Bed and Breakfast. There are special rules applied to such permits and the Building and Land Use Ordinance should be consulted before Accessory dwelling units are also allowed. The ordinance requires that the occupant must be a close relative of the property owner.

Questions regarding short term home rental can be directed to the Code Enforcement Officer. The Ice House Lane property owner has ceased their Air B&B rentals.

Agency Liquor Store Permission Sought

(Lamoine) - The owner of the Lamoine Marketplace is seeking a possible town referendum to allow a state agency liquor store in town. Kimberly Murphy inquired whether Selectmen were willing to directly order a referendum to go to voters.

The Legislature significantly changed state rules regarding liquor sales permission. Previously, towns could only place the matter out to referendum upon receipt of a petition containing signatures from at least 15% of voters who cast ballots in the previous gubernatorial election. The new rules allow the Board of Selectmen to put the question(s) directly onto a ballot without a petition. If Selectmen opt not to do that, the minimum number changed for the 15% threshold to only 30-signatures or 5% (whichever is fewer). In the case of Lamoine, the 15% would have required 148 signatures, and 5% would require 49 signatures.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the matter at their meeting on September 17, and unanimously decided to ask Mrs. Murphy to submit a petition with the required 30-signatures. The signatures were turned in on October 1st and the matter will likely go to voters on March 9, 2021. A public hearing is required prior to the town wide referendum vote.

Lamoine voted in 1994 to allow for beer and wine sales, and in 1996 to allow Sunday sales for beer and wine. Two questions are likely (to allow, and allow on Sunday) to be on the ballot when municipal officers are elected.

Assessors Allege Inconsistent Enforcement

(Lamoine) - The town's elected Board of Assessors has requested a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board regarding allegations that enforcement of the town's various ordinances is not consistent. The Board wrote to the Selectmen and supplied a list of alleged violations found during members reviews of property for valuation purposes. Some of the alleged violations have previously been investigated by the town's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

The Board of Selectmen has scheduled a meeting of all three boards at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym for October 15, 2020 at 6PM, to be followed by a special town meeting on two budgetary matters at 7PM. Seating is limited in the gym due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The letter from the Assessors requested, among other things, that the CEO perform windshield inspections on a monthly basis to spot alleged violations, and that Planning Board and Board of Selectmen review all complaints or inquiries received by the CEO. The suggestions could require a major revision in the CEO's job description and likely result in a significant time and cost increase required for the position.

Land Donation Nearly Complete

(Lamoine) - A very generous donation of land bordering Blunt's Pond is very nearly complete. Sisters Judith Whitcomb and Katherine Dudzinski have signed conservation easements with Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) and by the end of September Mrs. Dudzinski had executed a deed for her 30+ acres of land to the Town of Lamoine. A similar deed for Dr. Whitcomb's parcel arrived Sept. 29th.

The area will be know as Whitcomb's woods. Their father, Dr. Benjamin Whitcomb, owned a large parcel around the pond. He donated the portion where the Frenchman Bay Rider's Snowmobile clubhouse is located.

The Parks Commission and the FBC will organize a cleanup day to remove debris that showed up years ago.

County Upholds Abatement Denial

(Lamoine) - The Hancock County Commissioners had high praise for the town's Board of Assessors presentation after a landowner appealed a denial of a tax abatement request. Beth Murphy contended that the value place on a shorefront parcel near Lamoine State Park was too high.

The Board of Assessors supplied information to the County Commissioners showing the parcel was valued in the same manner as abutting parcels on the east side of the state park. The town's value was higher than an independently appraised value that Mrs. Murphy had obtained.

The County Commissioners found that the town did not err in how it treated the land valuation when compared to parcels in the same part of the town and turned down the appeal unanimously in mid-September.

Summertime Building Activity Heats Up

(Lamoine) - The Code Enforcement Officer issued the following permits:

23	Durrell, Stacey	Seasonal RV
24	Durrell, Stacey	Seasonal RV
25	Ouellette, Chris	Residence
26	Ackley, David	Garage/Deck
27	Snowdeal, L.	Garage
28	Fernandez, I	Cabin
29	Shubert, Carol	Addition
30	Towne, Terry	Boat House
31	Joy, Steve	Residence, Garage
32	Theodorides, R.	Cover Deck
33	Wilson, David	Residence
34	Tice, Nancy	Residence
35	Workman, S.	Pool
36	Cline/Dvorak	Shed
37	Lamoine, T.O.	Deck, Ramp
38	Poray, Cynthia	Canopy
39	Young, Peter	Garage
40	Romano, John	Shed
41	Seavey, Michael	Residence
42	Devisme, Brian	Shed
43	Heitert, Nancy	Shed
44	Frost, Jack	Garage, Patio

In addition to the construction permits, the Local Plumbing Inspector issued five septic system permits, two permits to replace septic tanks, and five internal plumbing permits.

CEO/LPI Rebecca Albright is generally in the office for limited hours on Tuesdays.

Cupola Project Finally Completed

(Lamoine) - After years of searching for a correct solution to a pretty major roof leak inside the cupola on top of the town office, the problem is fixed, and the structure is set to serve for another 140-years. Selectmen contracted with Waterville based Mid-Maine Restoration in 2019 to remove the old school bell from the cupola, repair the louvers on the four sides of the structure, and rebuild the roof structure on top. A large hole had developed in the roof which resulted in some pretty major water leaks when rain would blow in from the Southwest. Company owner Andrew Wilcox and his crew got delayed by COVID-19 restrictions in April, and arrived in mid-September to complete the roughly $13,000 project. The bell was removed and will sit on display outside the Lamoine Consolidated School. A volunteer work detail will remove the rust from the bell that ceased use when the building converted from a school to the town hall.

Workers from Mid-Maine Restoration prepare to bring down the bell that has hung in the town hall's cupola since the late 1870s.

Town Hall Gets New Ramp, Deck

(Lamoine) - The new election protocols to meet social distancing requirements due to the Coronavirus pandemic included a one-way traffic flow. Essentially voters entering through the front door have to exit through the back door. The July Primary election revealed some serious issues with the setup: the existing ramp was pretty steep, had no hand railing, and the wood was slippery in the rain and a bit "spongy".

Selectmen set aside money from the 2019/20 Administration budget to build a new ramp. In the design process, it was decided to place a deck outside the exit door extending to the edge of the original building, and then put a less steep ramp along the edge of the building.

Facilities Maintenance Director Michael Hodgkins said he was willing to complete the construction project, and set about to doing so in mid-September, wrapping up in plenty of time for Election Day in November. The new configuration will be a lot safer. The ramp is much gentler, and rails should prevent voters from any inadvertent fall. While it's sized correctly for wheelchair use, people using a wheelchair will be encouraged to exit through the front.

Facilities Maintenance Director Michael Hodgkins gets started on a new deck and ramp for the rear Town Hall entrance in time for the November elections.

Solar Fades, Broadband Plods

(Lamoine) - The plan to utilize the land around the closed Lamoine landfill for a solar energy 'farm" has fizzled and is dormant for now. Sunpower, which was the only firm to respond to a request for proposals in 2019, put in a fair amount of preliminary work into making sure the area was suitable. That work turned up too much wetland to make a large scale project feasible for now. The Covid-19 pandemic led to a delay, and finally, Sunpower reported to the town that it has placed any more development on hold.

The town continues to work with consultant Brian Lippold to try to extend broadband service to un-served portions of Lamoine. An application to the Maine Community Foundation for financial help was turned down in September, and Lippold is seeking funding from the Island Institute. Lippold has also been in touch with several fiber optics broadband companies about serving such areas as the Eagle Point and Partridge Cove subdivisions, the end of Seal Point Road, and other unserved pockets of town where cable TV provider Spectrum (Charter) is unwilling to extend lines.

Appeals Board Requires Permit

(Lamoine) - The Board of Appeals has upheld most of a Notice of Violation that Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright issued regarding a deck constructed on Douglas Highway. Albright cited the property owner for failing to obtain a building permit. Jeannine Lawser appealed, saying the additional square footage added after tearing down the existing entrance was less than 100-square feet.

The Appeals Board ruled that under ordinance, any addition to an existing structure requires a permit, but softened the violation order to remove the deck, requesting that the notice require application for a permit.

That application was submitted. CEO Albright is in the process of determining whether the permit may be issued.

Appeal Awaits Scheduling

(Lamoine) - The saga of the alleged "too tall" building remains before the Board of Appeals while the involved parties decide what documentation to submit to the Board. A virtual meeting between Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright, Appellant Alan Moldawer, property owner Thomas True and his attorney, and Appeals Board Attorney James Collier in September attempted to resolve the written case record for the Board to review.

Mr. Moldawer has appealed the CEO's re-determination on the allegation by Mr. Moldawer that a home constructed by Mr. True exceeds the 35-foot limit set by the Building & Land Use Ordinance. The Appeals Board had requested in 2019 that the CEO make the determination of the building height in from the original grade. Albright determined that the house was built according to the approved plan.

Property Tax Rate Increases to 11.6

(Lamoine) - The rate applied to assessed property values to determine tax bills increased by just over 6% for the 2020/21 fiscal year. A variety of factors was behind the increase.

One of the biggest factors was an incorrect tax rate calculation the previous year which resulted in a tax rate that was lower than it should have been (see article on page 4). Another factor was an increase in the homestead tax exemption from $20,000 to $24,500 (adjusted for the assessment ratio) a portion of which is not reimbursed by the State of Maine.

The final factor was the approved overall municipal budget (including schools and county) which required just over $65,000 more in property tax revenue for funding, or around a 2% increase.

Absentee Balloting Requests Approach Record Numbers

Assistant Town Clerk Nancy Jones (l) and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord (r) begin preparing envelopes to mail out hundreds of absentee ballots for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election.

(Lamoine) - Long before the ballots for the November 3, 2020 election were due to arrive, voter in Lamoine (and most other Maine municipalities) started requesting absentee ballots. Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord says she expects a record number of voters to utilize the absentee process, and the phone is ringing constantly with questions.

The process is actually pretty simple. If an absentee ballot is going to leave the building, voters must fill out an application. The voter can opt to have a ballot mailed, or pick one up and deliver it back to the town office. The request can be made in person at the town hall, by mail (and a lot of groups not associated with the town have mailed multiple applications to voters), by electronic application over the internet, or even by telephoning the town office directly.

The return options are pretty easy too. Voters can bring them to the town hall and leave them with the clerk's office during regular business hours. They can also mail the ballots back via the US Mail, or they can place the envelope containing the ballot in a drop box that has been placed by the town hall steps.

There are some rules that must be followed, or the ballot won't be cast. The envelope in which the ballot is returned MUST be signed by the voter. No signature, and the ballot clerks will not process the envelope. And, all absentee ballots must be received by 8:00 PM on Election Night. The drop box will be locked at 8PM, and the polls will close. Voters choosing to mail back their envelope and ballot are advised to do so at least a week in advance of the election.

Kovacs-Lord has scheduled two early processing times when absentee envelopes will be opened and the ballots placed in the voting tabulator—Friday, October 30th and Monday November 2nd. Teams of ballot clerks will check names off the voter list and place ballots through the tabulator. The results will not be known until Election Night as the computer stick is securely stored and the results tape will not be printed until after the polls close.

Of course, voters can cast ballots on Election Day. The polls will open at 8AM and close at 8PM. Only a limited number of voting booths will open due to COVID-19 restrictions, so absentee balloting is strongly encouraged. With heavy turnout likely, voters who wish to cast ballots in person are advised to be prepared to wait in line to get a ballot and vote. Social distancing rules are in effect.

Special Town Meeting Set for October 15

(Lamoine) - The Selectmen have scheduled a special town meeting for 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 15, 2020. After selecting a moderator, there are two articles on the warrant. The first matter will appropriate $11,000 from the undesignated fund balance (surplus) for the 2019/20 waste disposal budget to correct an error in the March 2019 town meeting warrant.

The second matter is to appropriate $10,000 from the road fund to add to the 2020/21 paving budget. The cost to pave was more than expected as bids went out later than usual due to the late annual town meeting date. That did not leave enough money to place gravel on the shoulders of Shore and Mill Roads to eliminate the drop off created by the new gravel layer. There is limited seating at the school gym, and a limit of 50-people allowed. Should more wish to attend, the meeting would have to be postponed until a later date.

Tax Acquired Property Auctioned

(Lamoine) - An abandoned home on Needles Eye Road fetched a significant price in a tax acquired property auction in July. Reginald Sanborn was the high bidder with an adjusted price of $92,000 for the property which had back taxes due of about $7,700. The previous owner had passed away and an heir declined to redeem the property. The auction generated 19 sealed bids.

Two parcels of land also acquired due to unpaid tax liens were also sold. Benjamin Morren purchased a 2-acre parcel bordering Needles Eye Road for $12,501. The auction generated several bids.

A smaller parcel across the road was offered to the two abutting property owners, as the lot itself is too small to build on. The heirs of Terry Bragdon submitted the winning (and only) offer, and the personal representative sold their lot to Roy Sprague and asked that the deed from the town be assigned to Mr. Sprague as well.

Drop Box Installed at Town Hall

(Lamoine) - With expected heavy absentee balloting and social distancing rules in place, the town has purchased a locking metal box and installed it by the steps at the town hall. Facilities Maintenance Director Michael Hodgkins was crafting a cover for the slot to keep rain and snow out. The cover will have the ability to be locked after the polls close on Election night to prevent drop off after that time. The town had Finish Line Graffix letter the box.

Voters who wish to leave absentee ballot envelopes are asked to use the drop box instead of the mail slot in the front door in order to maintain security. The Secretary of State's office may reimburse the town for 80% of the overall cost (approximately $400).

In addition to ballots, other secure things like property tax payments can be left in the box. The tax collector/clerk's office has the key and checks the box daily. It will be checked more frequently as election time approaches.

Sardine Cards to Help Heating

(Lamoine) -The Great Lamoine Sardine Haul organized by the Lamoine 150! Committee celebrated Lamoine's 150th birthday. Residents made and exhibited sardines to display on their property to honor the town's maritime history. Creativity blossomed everywhere! Eighty plus households were involved and the town soon appeared like a "school of sardines" It was a truly magical distraction during COVID-19.

Penny Walls from Lamoine photographed many sardines and will make them into cards. The cards will be sold and 100% of the profits will be donated to the Lamoine Fuel Assistance Program to help fellow Lamoiners in need.

On Saturday October 10 and 24 from 10am-12pm (Rain dates Oct 11 and 25) she will be at the Lamoine Grange showing her cards and taking orders. More information is posted on the Lamoine 150! Facebook page

19/20 Tax Rate Error Discovered

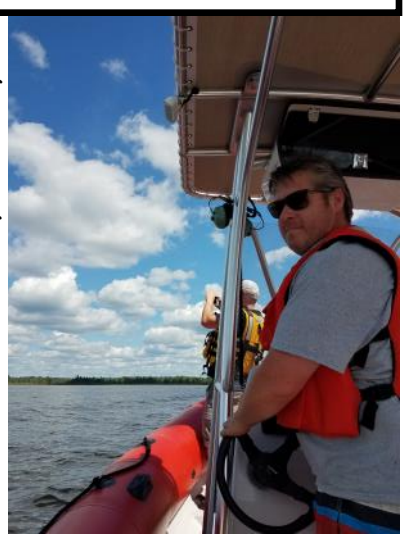
(Lamoine) - Your town administrator (and *Lamoine Quarterly* writer*)* had a bad spell when it came to figuring the proper tax rate for the Board of Assessors in July of 2019. Annually, Maine Revenue Services reviews the tax commitment, and discovered that the homestead exempt amount had not been subtracted from the total property valuation. That created an artificially high tax base, and resulted in a mill rate of 10.9 when it really should have been 11.3 mills. The impact was an overlay that was significantly lower than the target. Additionally, an error in writing the town meeting articles understated the recommended budget for waste disposal by $11,000 (see above town meeting article). The error means the town's surplus is a bit lower than projected.

Fire Calls Involve Plane, Boat, Automobiles

(Lamoine) - July and August proved to be an incredibly busy two month period for town firefighters, with some pretty serious calls. The department responded to 22-calls in those two months, and September saw another 10 calls for help come in, including four on Sept. 30th.

The biggest fire was just over the town line on Mud Creek Road in Hancock. All 5 fire trucks responded to the automatic mutual aid call, along with about 17 firefighters. The department's ladder truck had it's firefighting debut so to speak, and made a huge difference in extinguishing the blaze that started in the garage at the residence owned by David Leeman. The fire marshal's office investigated but could not determine the cause.

Above—a home on Mud Creek Road just over the town line in Hancock before the fire trucks arrived. Below-Lamoine Lt. Oliver Curry pilots the LVFD Boat to a wildfire on an island in the middle of Graham Lake



Two wild fire calls on Graham Lake in Ellsworth brought out the LVFD rescue boat to ferry manpower and equipment to the island. The boat also responded to a plane crash on Morgan Bay in Surry but was called off before it arrived. The Mud Creek Road osprey nest saw the fire department block the road while Versant Power cleared the live wires out of the road. The department also directed traffic at a serious accident at the intersection of Douglas Highway and Jordan River Road on September 22nd .

The weather has been extremely dry, and fire danger at times has been very high. Two of the calls this quarter were for unpermitted outdoor burns. Both property owners had a chat with a Maine Forest Ranger. The town stopped issuing burn permits in September when fire danger approached extreme.

Joint Shellfish Board Rep Sought

(Lamoine) - Dick Fennelly says he plans to step down as Lamoine's Representative on the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfishing Joint Municipal Board, and he would like to do so soon. Fennelly has been town's only representative ever since Lamoine, Ellsworth, Trenton, Hancock, Franklin, Sullivan and Sorrento joined forces to regulate shellfishing in the 7-town district. He has served as the chair of the board that oversees the regional ordinance for most of that time.

So far, no one has stepped forward to offer to serve. The job requires attendance at somewhat infrequent meetings to review the operation of the clam flats in the region, enforcement of the existing rules, and establishing conservation closures. He has offered to work with the new representative to get up to speed. Anyone interested in filling the position should contact the town office for possible appointment.

Fire Department Seeks Washer, Dryer

(Lamoine) - Firefighting can be a nasty, messy activity. Those who do so wear special gear called turnout gear, and after a fire, it's usually covered in soot from the smoke and burning substances. That soot has been strongly linked to cancer in the fire service.

In recent years, departments have stressed to members the importance of thoroughly cleaning their gear after every call to diminish the chances of exposure to toxins. Regular washing machines don't work well for that—a washer called an extractor is specifically designed to get the gear safely clean.

The Lamoine VFD hopes to seek grants to obtain such a washer and a heavy duty gear dryer. The estimated total cost is in the neighborhood of $20,000. Fundraising activity, including the annual auction and letter writing campaign for 2020 was greatly curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief George "Skip" Smith calls the proposed purchase an important health precaution.

The crew from Wellman Paving applies the travel surface layer on Mill Road as part of the 2020 paving program which saw the upper end paved, as well as the middle section of Shore Road.

Vandalized Speed Sign Repaired

(Lamoine) - The sign that displays motorist speed sustained minor damage from a motorist who might have thought it to be intrusive, and three a beer bottle at it. While the sign sat on Buttermilk Road, the top third of the display suddenly stopped displaying. The Road Commissioner hauled the trailer back to the town hall and opened up the sign and discovered one of the computer cables loose, and replugged it. That caused an odd display for the entire sign.

A call to the company in Canada that manufactured the sign quickly solved the issue when the tech support department explained where the reset button was. The sign was redeployed less than a day later.

The Maine Department of Transportation supplied the sign to the town a couple of years ago.

Town Requests State Parks Bureau to Remove Ramp, Repair Piling

(Lamoine) - After receiving reports of pieces of rebar sticking up from the old concrete boat ramp at Lamoine Beach, town officials have again contacted state officials to request the ramp's removal. Several years ago the town made a similar request, and the Bureau of Parks and Lands indicated they would do so. The removal never happened, and now the rusty metal rods have started to pop through the eroding concrete and have created a safety hazard to waders. The Bureau responded immediately to the town , saying the regional manager wanted to come take a look and see what could be done.

A piling that holds the finger floats at Lamoine State Park has broken off and Harbor Master David Herrick has indicated it needs to be replaced for safety reasons. The town offered to help pay for the estimated $5,000 repair cost from the Harbor Fund. We await final word from the State Parks Bureau.

TV Mounting Planned

(Lamoine) - As the era of social distancing plods along, many of the town's board meetings have been held via Zoom. Selectmen have authorized the technology committee to purchase a large TV/Monitor and to mount it on the north wall of the town hall meeting room for use during meetings that are both in-person and via zoom.

Technology Director Bill Butler will be in charge of the project which should help tremendously with visibility and cleaning up some clutter in the meeting room. The current Lamoine Coaling Station display by the late Bob Alvarez will be moved to another wall inside the town office meeting room.

Grange Entrance Gets An Upgrade

By Carol Korty, Lamoine Community Arts

Big changes at the Lamoine Grange building! Lamoiners driving (biking or jogging) by Lamoine Corner this summer have seen carpenters at work on the exterior. There is now a new entrance and handicap ramp, all meeting the safety code. The former ramp built as an Eagle Scout project. It has always been greatly appreciated but was awkward to enter, too steep for wheelchairs to navigate .

Before & After
Ed & Wes Hamor have constructed the new ramp and front steps on the Lamoine Grange Hall. (Georgianna Pulver Photos)

Financing of the new ramp was made possible by the very generous donation from The Sanderson Family in honor of the late David Sanderson. who represented all aspects of Lamoine Community Arts (LCA).

In addition to this major donation, we're grateful to Hammond Lumber for giving us a discount on materials and a donation for this project, in recognition of the importance the building has as community gathering place. Both the Grange and LCA made modest contributions, as well, despite having had no sources of income during the pandemic. Fortunately LCA was able to divert funds from other projects With the Grange hall currently closed for public gatherings, it was the perfect time to work on the entrance to the building.

Ed Hamor of Acadia Building and Developing, Town Hill, was able to take on the job with assistance from his cousin Wes Hamor and Travis Battis. Ed's appreciation of the historic character of the 100 year old building and its role in Lamoine life shows in the find workmanship he's put into this project. We look forward to calling on volunteers to paint the railings next summer!

Participants in the first Parks Commission sponsored community walk were Diane Sanderson, Jeff Cosulich, Giulio Areinamo, Cathi Goebel, Lori Jordan and Cynthia Donaldson. It was a perfect cool and breezy day for a walk!

TreasureS Hunt, T-Shirts Prove Popular

(Lamoine) - Some very well crafted wooden plaques appeared in mid-September at strategic historic places around Lamoine, and the hunt was on. The town's 150th Celebration Committee placed them as part of a treasure hunt, so to speak.

The idea was to give people a fun yet educational activity as a way to celebrate Lamoine's heritage. The first clue was posted on the town's website, and on flyers posted at the town hall. Once the first plaque was located, each plaque had a clue on the back as to where the next clue was posted.

In addition to the flyer with the first clue, a town map of Lamoine as it existed in 1881 and another as it exists today were available. Treasure hunters were instructed to mark on the maps where they found each plaque. Once complete, the hunter's name goes on the map, and a random drawing of all the completed maps will select winners of each plaque.

The Lamoine 150! Committee also printed up very popular T-Shirts with the logo created by artist Lee Cline. They

were so popular, a second order was commissioned! The shirts sell for $10/ each (tax included), and are available at the Lamoine Town Hall during regular business hours.

Recreation Committee Nixes Fall Sports

(Lamoine) - Coronavirus claimed recreational soccer as a victim for the Fall of 2020. The town's recreation committee found that while there was plenty of desire for kids to play soccer, there was not plenty of coaching help to carry it off. Nikki Chan of the committee did extensive work on how to meet state guidelines to run a soccer program, and she also polled parents about willingness to step up to help implement the program. The Rec Committee concluded that a significant amount of people would be needed to take on extra tasks associated with any fall soccer program, and few were willing to do so.

The Rec Committee will continue to monitor state recreational program requirements for the winter and spring before deciding whether to run youth basketball and cheering.

Lien Filings Decline

(Lamoine) - If property tax lien numbers are any sort of economic indicator, the effect of the pandemic was not bad on tax collection. Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs, filed 51 tax liens in August of 2020 for unpaid 2019/20 property taxes. The value of the liens was $55,135.36. The previous year saw 62 liens filed with a value of $66,999.73. Both numbers represent a 17% reduction.

Towns file liens to preserve collection efforts on unpaid taxes. Tax liens automatically foreclose to the town if not paid within 18-months of the filing date.

The T-shirts (above) come in gray and periwinkle (purple) in a wide variety of youth and adult sizes.
The bell from the cupola at the Lamoine Town Hall (a former school building) is now on display at the Lamoine Consolidated School, sitting on the original mounting bracket hardware. It'll need a thorough cleaning!

Report Awarded

(Augusta) - Selectmen got word in late September that the 2019 Annual Report has received an excellence award from Maine Municipal Association—3rd place in the state for communities in our size.

An Open Letter to the Lamoine Community

Dear Members of the Lamoine Community:

We are writing to encourage all citizens of Lamoine to exercise the utmost care to prevent the coronavirus from crossing the threshold of our school. Our teachers and administrators have invested many hours creating a complex plan to "reopen" our school safely. Parents and children have stepped up to make this plan a reality. In approving the Reopening Plan for Lamoine Consolidated School, the School Committee feels confident that the benefits of in-person learning and teaching far outweigh the small but real risk that a student or staff member might contract COVID-19.

We want to emphasize to you that the students, families, and staff of LCS cannot ensure safety by themselves. ***We are writing to ask you to stay alert to the risk of sharing virus exposure with school children and families***. As the Millinocket wedding tragedy shows us, all it takes is a casual contact with somebody "positive" to then carry the virus home to a neighbor, family member, or co-worker.

The Board of Selectmen and the School Committee hope that our detailed plan will keep kids learning and permit parents to keep their focus on being breadwinners and parents without the added responsibility of "teacher". If we all join in this effort, we've got a much greater chance of succeeding than if we leave it to the school by itself. Each one of us has an important part to play in keeping our children and our community safe and employed.

We look forward to your ongoing support in this important community effort. Thank you for your help.

The Lamoine School Committee
Brett Jones
Matt Montgomery
Michael Brann
Bob Pulver
Gordon Donaldson
Katrina Kane, Superintendent

The Lamoine Board of Selectmen
Kathleen Rybarz
Gary McFarland
Nate Mason
Jo Cooper
Bob Christie

Dear Lamoine Community Friends,
What a wondeful surprise we experienced last week to be presented with such kind, heart-felt words of encouragement. And then, to receive such a generous gift bag full of thoughtful and helpful gifts, Lamoine truly is a Town like no other. Our school staff is so lucky to have your support! With deep appreciation, Amy Dyer

Got Tent Caterpillars?

(Lamoine) - Beauty is in the eye of the beholder it is written, but unless you're a destructive caterpillar, there is nothing beautiful about the "tents" that show up from time to time. Misty Way resident Pam Hoogerhyde called the town office in August, expressing concern about the arrival of the pests what envelop significant parts of alder trees and eat most all of the leaves in their path. The concern was less about the vegetation destruction (though that's a reality), but about public health. Some of the tents are brown-tail moth caterpillars, and the tiny hairs on them are extremely toxic to humans and can cause severe reactions with skin.

Pam Hoogerhyde Photo

Mrs. Hoogerhyde suggests using a plastic bag to cover the affected tree branches, and carefully clipping the branch to get the nest and caterpillars inside. Burning is the most effective way to eliminate the pests (a burn permit would be required), but tightly tying the trash bag and taking it to the transfer station will eventually get them to the incinerator.

There are mixtures one can make that will not harm the environment but will take care of the critters. Hoogerhyde advises that a mixture of dishwashing liquid and water will work, or a mixture with rubbing alcohol, water, vegetable oil and vinegar is equally effective. The very hungry caterpillars can quickly denude a forest area. Mrs. Hoogerhyde was able to remove some tents in the Mill Road area this summer.

The Lamoine Quarterly

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Selectmen Serve County Gov't & Maine Municipal Association

(Lamoine) - Two of Lamoine's elected Selectmen are playing key roles beyond the walls of the town office. Current board chair Kathleen Rybarz is representing the Hancock County area on the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee. That committee identifies bills important to municipalities and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

Jo Cooper was selected once again to serve on the Hancock County Budget Advisory Committee for District 3. The committee's role is to review budget submissions by the various county government departments, and recommend a funding level to the County Commissioners.

History of Lamoine Available

By Gordon Donaldson

(Lamoine) - Lamoine 150! has sponsored the creation of a book about our town's history: *Lamoine at 150: One Downeast Community from 1870 to 2020*. Written by committee member Gordon Donaldson, *Lamoine at 150* describes what life was like in Lamoine in twenty-five-year snapshots, beginning in 1870. It includes, as well, chapters on the "separation" of the town from Trenton in 1870 and the "annexation" of Marlboro in 1931. A grant from Maine200 helped to fund the production of the book.

Copies of *Lamoine at 150* will be available at no cost to residents of the town (each home/residence will receive one copy upon request). Residents may purchase another copy and non-residents may purchase a copy for $10 (plus mailing costs if mailed). Starting October 1, you may pick up your copy at the Town Hall.

Lamoine 150! Committee member Angela Johnson hands out a copy of Lamoine at 150 at the Salt/Sand shed on September 19th.

October 2020—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
During the declared emergency period, the Town Office will not be open on Saturdays with the exception of October 31, 2020				1-7:00 PM Board of Selectmen	2	3—Town Hall Closed
4	5-7PM Planning Board	6	7-8am Board of Assessors	8	9	10
11	12-Town Hall Closed (Columbus/ Indigenous People Day)	13	14	15-6:00 PM—Selectmen @ School 7PM Special Town Meeting	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30—10AM Absentee Ballot Processing	31-Town Hall Open 8am to Noon

November 2020—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2—10AM Absentee Ballot Processing	3-8am to 8pm Election Day	4-8am Board of Assessors	5-7PM Board of Selectmen	6	7—Town Hall Closed
8	9-7PM Planning Board	10	11-Town Hall Closed (Veterans' Day)	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19-7PM Board of Selectmen	20	21
22	23	24	25	26—Town Hall Closed (Thanksgiving)	27	28—Town Hall Closed
29	30	The Budget Committee generally begins meeting in the Fall. Consult the town's website for the meeting schedule and all calendar updates.				

December 2020-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2-8am Board of Assessors	3-7PM Board of Selectmen	4	5—Town Hall Closed
6	7-6PM Parks Cmsn 7PM Planning Board	8	9—7PM Conservation Commission	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17-7PM Board of Selectmen	18	19
20	21	22	23	24-Town Hall closes at Noon	25-Town Hall & Transfer Station Closed	26—Town Hall Closed. Transfer Station open 8-5.
27	28	29	30	31– Town Hall Closing at 2PM	Consult website for Transfer Station holiday schedule	

The Lamoine Quarterly
October 2020

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And Much, Much More!

Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605