

Lamoine Comprehensive Planning Committee
Public Hearing Minutes November 12, 2018

1. Public meeting at the Lamoine Consolidated School called to order by Fred Stocking at 7:00 pm. Those from the Committee in attendance were Bob, Kathie, Fred, Wanda, Mike, Val, and Andrea. Richard, was absent. Many members of the public were also present
2. Fred asked the Committee members to identify themselves, and he then introduced the comp plan generally, what it is and how it is different from an ordinance. He briefly described the Comprehensive Planning Committee process, including public commenting, revisions, the town vote, and state approval. He then talk about what the basic recommendations are from the committee, what changes the committee sees ahead, and what will stay essentially as it is now. Fred's intro covered what is in the Introduction, pages 1-5. After Fred covered his intro, the Committee members offered a few additional comments about our perspectives on the plan, on how we've done our work, and how it will go forward.
3. Fred announced that the Committee will take any written comments submitted to us by November 30.
4. The Committee took questions and comments from the public.
 - Carol Korty (Corty?), Lamoine: Staggered by what the Committee has done. She fell asleep twice, because there is so much to take in. She gives the Committee her thanks. She is tremendously impressed by the effort.
 - Larry Libby, Lamoine: Interested in Appendices. Would have liked to have them when reading through the plan. They are available at the Town Office and on the town website, as they are large files and long (more than 200 pages).
 - Cynthia Donaldson, Lamoine: Hoping the resolve re: resolution for Little Children in 2013 (see resolve – Cynthia gave it to Fred -- for details). She would like to see this resolve in the Plan. She is very proud of Lamoine passing this, and feels that it is very important.
 - Gordon Donaldson, Lamoine: This is an amazing product. Having tried to use the last one, it was not a handy document to provide guidance to the planning board. This one will provide guidance to everyone. He is appreciative of the work done. He provided a written document with 3 points that he would like the Committee to consider: restoration of mining areas, public shore access especially for marine industries, and some of the brook in resource protection (Fred doesn't believe that these were in resource protection at the writing of the plan). Fred pointed out that our data has aged out during the writing of the plan, and we have had to rewrite when that has happened, thus we are often playing
 - John Holt, Lamoine: Feels like a conservative document. No recommendations to change the districts in town – the districts don't look much different from one another as you drive around and look at it. Why did the Committee not make changes to the ordinances? Fred pointed out that we acted in accordance with the town's feedback throughout the process – there was no mandate to change it, for example. He also mentioned some of the concerns with the current state – especially in terms of folks buying in the Rural and Ag zone knowing what might be added next door to them. Kathie pointed out that there is a lot of emphasis at the state level to preserve the rural spaces, and we got feedback about this in the community feedback. We tried to strike a balance, and the current zoning provides some ability to that.
 - Griff Fenton, Lamoine: Thank the committee. This is an incredible document. Concerned with the community building. Since he's been in town, the community building has been the school. He believes that to attract younger people to town is through affordable housing and the school. Since the school was built, we've had any laws passed that we don't have the structure to address (art, music, etc.). We also have the gym, but no good way for folks to shower, etc., after athletic events. He'd like to see us address the school and community center together – to bring together young people, people on fixed incomes, etc. He believes that combining this would benefit everyone. Bob noted that the community center came out of the process to get town input, not from the Committee, and is already being looked at by the Select Board. It will likely be a separate committee to address that – not the Comp Plan Committee. Carol Korty also liked this idea, and might serve on that committee. ☺
 - Carol Korty, Lamoine: Agrees with what Gordon said about giving more emphasis in the section on making the pits that are no longer extracting materials more useful. Under #4 or #7, Cousin's Hill is a unique area – perhaps a fragile mountain? It is on the Ice Age Map; a unique geological feature, and thus needs protection. Under 3.2, what is an overlap zone? Val gave an example of intertidal overlaps with Rural and Ag Zone. Carol mentioned our aquifer and how important that is, as it feeds the whole groundwater system for the town. She proposed that we have an overlap zone for our aquifer. Kathie mentioned that p. 30 provides a description of Cousins's Hill as a wave-cut bluff and refers to the Ice Age Map. Carol asked that we mention it under Natural Resources and Critical Natural Resources, as well.

- Larry Libby, Lamoine: Under Climate Change section, references to maps and roads that are particularly vulnerable to these changes. Feels we need more emphasis on these, especially when it might isolate people living in certain areas. He would like to see more about the “so what” of those maps.
 - Carol Korty, Lamoine: State says that if soil is very good for growing things, should preserve that for growing things. She believes that many of the fields in town (like around Pinkham’s Flats) could be cut up and sold for house lots. Can these be preserved. Val mentioned that one thing the town could do is ask the private land owners to meet with the Conservation Commission to discuss preserving these. Carol also mentioned that there is a very long list of items for the Conservation Commission with no budget. Fred points out that the state requires conservation of “critical XYZ” but we don’t have any studies saying that “XYZ” is critical. We need to pass the plan so that we can move forward on some of these studies and identifying what actually needs to be conserved.
 - Kathie G, Lamoine: Thanked everyone for supporting the Committee’s work.
 - Gordon Donaldson, Lamoine: Thanked the Committee, again, for its work.
5. Next meeting to review public hearing comments will tentatively be held on Dec 6.
 6. Fred adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andrea Ames