Town of Lamoine, Maine
Established 1870

# Lamoine Comprehensive Planning Committee

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To: The Boards, Committees and community groups of Lamoine:

The Comprehensive Plan Committee is asking you for your help in updating the Lamoine Comprehensive Plan. The existing Comprehensive Plan was passed in 1996 and is now too old to be in compliance with Maine rules. We want to craft a new Plan that will be useful to the Town for the next ten to fifteen years. We will be gathering community input in several ways. We are currently working on a short questionnaire covering much the same ground as similar efforts in 1992 and 2005 to allow comparison over time.

We have also begun to go through one or two sections of Lamoine's existing Plan. For each section we will review the existing text and data, look at the data provided by the State, and decide what further information is needed and how to get it.

Later this year, the Comprehensive Plan Committee will be asking each town committee and active community group to put the Comprehensive Plan on its agenda. Our hope is that your group will discuss your hopes and concerns for Lamoine at one meeting and then members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee will attend the next meeting to get the benefit of your discussion.

After these meetings, we will hold general public meetings and begin to circulate proposed positions or options on items of particular importance. The subject areas which must be covered in a Comprehensive Plan are listed on the back of this letter. Other topics may be covered as well, if needed.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee is composed of Fred Stocking (chair), Kathie Gaianguest (Vice-Chair), Bonnie Marckoon (Secretary), Valerie Sprague, Brett Jones, Richard McMullen, Bob Christie, and Andrea Ames (alternate). We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 at the Town Hall. We hope to complete the project by Town Meeting 2017.

Required Topic Areas for a Maine Municipal Comprehensive Plan

- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Water Resources
- Natural Resources
- Agricultural and Forest Resources
- Marine Resources
- Population and Demographics
- Economy
- Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Public Facilities and Services
- Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment Plan
- Existing Land Use

Also required are a Future Land Use Plan and a Vision Statement

May 1, 2015

**Report of the Comprehensive Plan Committee of the Town of Lamoine**

To: The Board of Selectmen, Town of Lamoine

From: Fred Stocking, Chair, Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee

Date: July 16, 2015

1. Background and Overview of Process

The Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee ("LCPC") was appointed by the Board in July, 2014. At an organizational meeting on September 4, 2014, the LCPC elected officers: Fred Stocking, Chair, Kathie Gaianguest, Vice Chair, and Bonnie Marckoon, Secretary. The other members of the LCPC are Bob Christie, Brett jones, Richard McMullen, Valerie Sprague and Andrea Ames, (alternate). The LCPC designated the first Thursday of each month as its regular meeting date.

The basic plan of the LCPC was to proceed in these stages:

A. Education of the Committee,
B. Gathering and review of available data,
C. Gathering of public input,
D. Development of specific proposals,
E. Review and revision of proposals after public meetings, and
F. Drafting of a final Comprehensive Plan document

The first few meetings were to educate the group as to the process and tools for creation of a new Comprehensive Plan for the Town. Tom Martin from the Hancock County Planning Commission attended the October 2 meeting to outline the comprehensive plan process and describe some of the available resources. We examined Comprehensive Plans from other towns and reviewed the State guidelines and criteria for approved plans. We received the State Data for Lamoine and spent some time going over it.

The LCPC planned to study the Town Comprehensive Plan requirements and available information. We would then begin to solicit opinions from the citizens of Lamoine in various ways: We contemplated one, or quite probably two, surveys of town opinion by questionnaire, one early on and one, seeking much more specific indications of town preferences, late in the process. We also planned to identify town boards and other groups active in Lamoine and ask them to set aside time to discuss their perspective on Lamoine's future and its needs. Some members of LCPC would then attend their meetings to get their input. After reviewing survey results and meeting with a number of groups, we would hold a larger public forum to solicit concerns and perhaps start to construct a Vision Statement for Lamoine. We assumed that there would also be later public forums after some drafting of a proposed plan had been completed.

In late fall of 2014, we decided to put together a survey of Town opinion, based on similar surveys done in 1992 and 2005. Those two surveys asked many of the same questions, and the LCPC decided it would be useful to ask those questions again, in order to get a sense of any change in town attitudes towards many of the basic issues. This project, like others, proceeded more slowly than planned, as is discussed in the "Challenges" section below. The final completed survey form is attached.

At the beginning of 2015, the LCPC began to study systematically the required topics for a Comprehensive Plan. Each topic was assigned to a subcommittee of the LCPC. At each meeting one or more topics were presented by a subcommittee to the LCPC. Each presentation covered:

1) What the former Lamoine Comprehensive Plan had to say on that topic,

2) What the State Data contained with respect to the topic,

3) What further information might be available and useful to the LCPC in addressing the topic in the Comprehensive Plan, and

4) What must be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan according to the State criteria.

Presentations have been made on Archaeological and Historic Resources, Natural Resources, Public Facilities and Services, Demographics, and Economics.

The original objective was to complete the education phase and begin the public input phase by late spring of this year. We were not able to do this. Due in large part with my own experience that it is very difficult to get groups together in the summer, we had relatively little planned for the summer, and now plan to gear up the public input phase of the work in the Fall.

B. Challenges

The LCPC has not been able to progress as fast as we originally planned. The group has held 10 meetings since its inception. Another three meetings have been canceled or skipped because of anticipated low attendance. Some of this is due to the fact that the people appointed to Town Committees are almost by nature busy people with lots going on in their lives. The Comprehensive Plan revision is a large undertaking and yet there are limits to how much time committee members can put into the process.

The LCPC has also been hit by an extraordinary series of family health problems. Of the seven members and one alternate, fully four members have been forced to miss meetings and limit their work for the LCPC due to completely unanticipated family health emergencies. As I am one of the four, I can say that the work of the committee has suffered from my lack of engagement and leadership over the last few months.

C. Current Status of the LCPC

Although we are not as far along as we had hoped to be, we are at this point fully prepared to move forward with the Public Input phase of the project. We have approved the

proposed survey and will get it out prior to Labor Day with a return date of October 31st. We have drafted a letter to the various community boards and groups (attached) and will be sending it out in the near future. I will then follow up with telephone contacts to schedule meetings and arrange for an LCPC presence.

It is my suggestion that we plan our first public forum on the Comprehensive Plan for early December. By then we will have collated and interpreted the survey results and should have been able to meet with many of the town committees and groups. I think it likely that we will ask for some assistance from the Hancock County Planning Commission with respect to how to structure this meeting—that is whether to focus on creating a proposed Vision for Lamoine or to find some particular topics to work on.

D. Conclusion:

I believe that the LCPC will be able to achieve its goal of getting a Comprehensive Plan ready for the Town Meeting in 2017. I would suggest, however, that I should provide you with a further Report early in 2016 to make sure that the project is on track.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Stocking