

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Introduction

Lamoine is a small, rural community, lacking in the necessity for public facilities and services associated with larger or more urban communities. As noted elsewhere [citation to Population and Demographics], Lamoine's growth in population has slowed and is projected to remain modest, although there is some evidence to the contrary [citation to Housing]. This modest population growth projection has a direct effect on the public facilities and services needs of the town.

This section will discuss the current state of public facilities and services in Lamoine and project the town's future needs. Areas of special concern relate to 1) retention of service providers, such as the town administrator, firefighters, and healthcare professionals; 2) the need for more or different public spaces, such as the school and community-focused gathering places; and 3) technology.

Lamoine Public Facilities and Services Today

The public facilities and services provided by Lamoine today include:

- Town Office
- Town staff, including town administrator
- Volunteer firefighting services
- Emergency response system (social media, firefighters connected by radio, local television)
- Lamoine Consolidated School (public, K-8)
- Solid waste management and recycling system (Lamoine Transfer Station)
- Planned storm water runoff (in Marlborough)
- Privately owned public water supply (consumer co-op, including Lamoine Consolidated School)
- ? any additional to add?

Lamoine also partners with neighboring communities to share services, reduce costs, and/or improve services. These partnerships include:

- School administration, staff, and some activities (shared superintendent and superintendent's office, special education director, teacher evaluation team, and some sports and joint-trip activities)
- Firefighting (with Trenton and Hancock)
- Emergency management (with Hancock County)
- Police services (with Hancock County)
- Ambulance services (with Hancock County)
- Waste management (through contract with/across towns/counties?)
- Heating oil program (with ?)

- Joint salt purchase program (with ___?)
- Library (Ellsworth Public Library)
- YMCA (Downeast Family YMCA in Ellsworth)
- Clammers and wormers association? (regional)
- ___ ? any additional to add?

Lamoine does not provide the following facilities and services:

- Storm water management facility
- Public sewer system (primarily single-family septic fields and subsurface waste water disposal systems, maintained by individual owners, pumped as needed by private contractors pump them)
- ___ ? any additional to add?

Future Needs: Town Administrator

Due to retirement or the Town Administrator being offered a career opportunity outside of his current office, Lamoine will eventually lose a tremendous resource and years of institutional memory.

As a result, the town should ___.

Andrea's thoughts: develop and implement a succession plan for this role and begin immediately to capture the duties, activities, and tasks performed by the Town Administrator to preserve institutional memory and ensure efficient operations in the event of a short-term absence, or a smooth transition in the event of a permanent personnel change in this role.

Future Needs: Volunteer Firefighters

Firefighting is a rigorous task, both physically and emotionally. That, coupled with the volunteer nature of the Lamoine Fire Department, requires a level of personal investment by the firefighters that cannot be sustained indefinitely. As firefighters opt to retire or are forced, due to age or physical infirmity, to retire, Lamoine will experience bouts of loss in the volunteer firefighting ranks.

As a result, the town should ___.

Andrea's thoughts: develop and implement a recruitment and retention plan for volunteer firefighters.

Future Needs: Area doctors

Although it is not a problem only for Lamoine, there are not enough doctors in the general Ellsworth/Mount Desert Island area, and the doctors here tend to rotate through the area quickly – sometimes for only a year – making it difficult for patients to develop a relationship conducive to excellent healthcare. [Are there some staticstics that we can cite here? Or is this just anecdotal?] This is of particular concern for

Lamoine, given our aging population [citation to Population and Demographics and special section on elderly population].

As a result, the town should ____.

Andrea's thoughts: work with the surrounding communities (Ellsworth, Hancock, Trenton, Bar Harbor, etc.) to develop and implement a recruitment and retention plan for doctors.

Future Needs: Community Center

Through the Fall 2015 town survey, the many meetings with town organizations, and the March 2016 community meeting, respondents and participants have clearly indicated that a community meeting place would meet many of the needs and desires of Lamoine residents. These include reducing isolation among the elderly, building and cross-generational relationships, and maintaining and increasing the friendly, small-town feeling for which so many residents moved to Lamoine.

As a result, the town should ____.

Thoughts from the many venues in which this has been discussed:

- *Investigate alternate use of school facilities for community uses, such as adult ed classes, sports activities, meetings, etc.*
- *Build a community center*

Future Needs: School Expansion

While an expansion of the school is not currently planned, a proposal could come before the town – in particular, the parking lot? and the gym are likely candidates.

As a result, the town should ____.

Thoughts: ?

Future Needs: Town Office Parking

Actual projected growth by the state indicates that the Lamoine Town Office is adequate, as long as these growth projections hold. Parking, however, is inadequate for voting day and big-issue topics at meetings.

As a result, the town should ____.

Thoughts from the April 21 committee meeting: use the lot behind the one on which the Town Office is currently located, and raise/move the Town Office to a foundation on the lot behind. The parking lot could then expand into the area of the current Town Office foundation.

Notes from the April 21 committee meeting: At this time, money is set aside for this, but there no approved plan, etc., then parking could expand to area of current foundation.

Future Needs: Digitized Tax Maps

Currently, Lamoine's town maps, including our tax maps, are maintained by traditional, not digital, means. This makes the maps less precise and makes maintenance take longer.

What about digitized tax maps digitized / GIS --- digital control so that tax maps can be drawn and revised quickly?

As a result, the town should ____.

Thoughts from the April 21 committee meeting: digitize our maps – in particular the tax maps – using GIS data so that they can be drawn and revised quickly.

Future Needs: High-Speed Internet Access

Through the Fall 2015 town survey, the many meetings with town organizations, and the March 2016 community meeting, respondents and participants have indicated that they would like more and better (higher speed, more reliable, less expensive) choices for internet access, and that they would like those choices available in more locations – even very remote ones.

As a result, the town should ____.

Thoughts from the April 21 committee meeting: determine whether – and if so, to what extent – the internet issue is the town's business.

OPEN ISSUES/ACTIONS related to this section

==> Fred will contact John Holt about questions 4 & 5

11(B)4. If the community has a public water system, are any public water supply expansions anticipated/ If so, have suitable sources been identified and protected? Is the water district extension policy consistent with the Future Land Use Plan?

11(B)5. If the town does not have a public sewer or water system, is this preventing the community from accommodating current and projected growth?

Notes from Apr 21 Committee meeting about public water system: Cold spring is a privately owned public water supply (consumer co-op); can it take on any more, if there's a need for expansion, and if so, how much? School water system is also public. No current growth. Large facilities, like aging homes, need sprinkler systems. What is threshold (# of beds) that would require sprinklers? (Maine Fire Law) Commercial buildings require sprinklers (e.g., breaking up a home into 3 or more apartments). Lack of water system to support this is substantial drawback to mid-to-large commercial development in Lamoine. No plans to change this.