

# Lamoine Comprehensive Plan

## Proposed Vision Statement, Goals and Policies

The Town of Lamoine's Comprehensive Planning Committee has been working through 2017 to develop a Vision Statement, Goals, Policies and Strategies for the Town's new Comprehensive Plan. The Committee's draft recommendations will be presented for review and comment at a Comprehensive Planning Open House at the Consolidated School on November 18. The draft recommendations will also be posted on the Town's website along with a survey for residents who are unable to attend the November 18<sup>th</sup> Open House, or who wish to add further comments.

The *Vision Statement* is meant to summarize the Town's desired future community character in terms of economic development, natural and cultural resource conservation, transportation systems, land use patterns and its role in the region.

The State of Maine requires that Comprehensive Plans contain Goals, Policies and Strategies in 11 different subject areas. The *Goals* are broad statements describing the general direction that the Town wishes to pursue for that subject area. The *Policies* describe the Town's positions on individual issues and can be used to guide public and private decision-making. Finally, the *Strategies* are specific measures that the Town will take to carry out the Policies and support the broad Goals.

This document presents the proposed Vision Statement, Goals and Policies without the detailed Strategy recommendations. It is thus a summary of the guiding statements that are proposed to be included in the Plan.

In addition to the Vision, Goals, Policies, and Strategies, the final Comprehensive Plan will include descriptions of existing conditions and analyses of trends within each subject area, along with maps and useful background information. A Public Review Draft, which includes those strategy recommendations, is available for review at the Open House and at the Town Hall. We anticipate presenting the finished Plan to the Town in the Spring of 2018.

We hope that you will take the time to review this summary and provide your input, either at the November 18 Open House or through the online survey form.

### LAMOINE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Andrea Ames  
Bob Christie  
Kathryn Gaianguest

Michael Jordan  
Richard McMullen  
Valerie Sprague

Fred Stocking  
Wanda Whitener

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# Our Vision

Lamoine will continue to be prized by its citizens for its rural landscape, natural beauty and its small-town character. Its citizens will continue to participate in a wide range of community activities, from Town boards and committees to the Volunteer Fire Department, including the many groups enhancing the community by sharing particular interests, from Town history to snowmobile riding to arts events. The Town will sponsor special events such as the Lamoine 150 anniversary events to bring the townspeople together so that a sense of Lamoine flourishes. The Town will develop a Community Center to provide increased space and opportunity for community activities.

Lamoine will continue to develop its own character, defined by its citizens, its history, geography and natural resources, while recognizing that Ellsworth, Mount Desert Island and the Bangor area provide many services that do not need to be duplicated in Lamoine. Lamoine will continue to work with nearby municipalities to share resources and hold down costs. Lamoine will work with the State of Maine to assure that through traffic does not change the character of the Town.

Lamoine will maintain its own school to provide a locale for community activities and to avoid transporting our young children elsewhere for their education. Lamoine will maintain high school choice for secondary students. The Lamoine Consolidated School will continue to excel in preparing students for their lives ahead. Together with in-town programs for pre-school children, the school will become a magnet attracting families with young children to Lamoine.

Lamoine will continue to facilitate the flourishing of small and home-based businesses as its economic base, recognizing that industrial development is not compatible with its rural character. The current limitations on the growth of gravel pits will be continued. Worked-out pits will be restored for other uses or open space. Increasingly business is done from homes, home offices and small facilities and this activity will continue as the Town finds ways to spread quality internet service to all parts of Lamoine. The Town will support small business development by making sure that its ordinances accommodate small-scale, low-impact businesses in residential settings. The Town will develop and maintain an online listing of products and services available in Lamoine and will encourage buying local. The Town will be friendly to local agriculture and supportive of efforts to return parts of Lamoine to its farming heritage.

Lamoine will continue to be recognized as a place defined by its rural character and natural beauty such as open fields and woodlots, ocean shorefront, scenic vistas, scenic road corridors, and an abundance of wildlife and flora. People in all parts of Lamoine, in established neighborhoods and newer subdivisions, will have convenient access to open space, including the ocean. The parks will be maintained as a significant component of Lamoine's open space. The Town will encourage conservation efforts, including those by regional conservation partners, that promote wildlife habitat, and wildlife corridors through the town.

The Town will plan for the effects of climate change as they become clear over time, including extreme storms, sea level rise and the disruption of road and communications systems to vulnerable locations of residences and businesses.

Additional homes and roads will be built as the community grows. New residential development will be sited along the shore and existing roads and incorporate meaningful pieces of open space. Connections between open space areas will be a priority in siting new development. These connections will be for both wildlife in the form of travel corridors and interconnected habitat, and for pedestrians in the form of off-road trails. Some larger natural areas will be preserved to protect habitats of area-sensitive species and provide opportunities for traditional outdoor pursuits, such as hunting, snowmobiling, and hiking.

Lamoine recognizes that its population is aging and will plan for facilities and services for older adults.

# Our Goals

The following goals express the long-term aspirations for the Town under each of the major topics covered by the Comprehensive Plan.

## FUTURE LAND USE

To maintain the rural character of Lamoine by maintaining and building on existing community facilities, accommodating moderate residential growth in limited areas, and encouraging the preservation of open space and natural resources.

## HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

To preserve and enhance Lamoine's historic and archaeological resources for enjoyment and education, including that of future generations.

## WATER RESOURCES

To protect all Lamoine's fresh water resources.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

To protect the Town's critical natural resources, including wildlife habitat, historic sites, geologic sites, habitat blocks, plants and wetlands.

## AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

To safeguard the Town's agricultural and forest resources and promote farming, forest preservation and responsible forest harvesting in the local economy.

## MARINE RESOURCES

To protect Lamoine's unique and diverse shoreland by supporting a balance between conservation and development, with management and preservation of the ecological integrity and diversity of marine habitats, and multiple human uses including fishing, recreation, and open scenic vistas.

## POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Lamoine will be a town which is attractive to and serve the needs of its residents of all ages.

## ECONOMY

To encourage the development of occupations consistent with Lamoine's small town atmosphere.

## HOUSING

To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing for a wide range of family types and ages.

## RECREATION

To promote, protect and enhance the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Lamoine citizens, across all age groups, including access to surface waters; and to promote opportunities for inter-generational family and group recreation.

## TRANSPORTATION

To meet the diverse transportation needs of Lamoine residents (including children, older adults and disabled persons) and visitors by providing a safe, efficient and adequate transportation network for all types of users (motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and other users).

## PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

To meet the public service needs of Lamoine citizens in the most cost-effective manner.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

To incorporate climate change considerations into town decision-making.

# Our Policies

The Comprehensive Plan's broad long-range goals are supported by more specific policies designed to guide actions by Town and State officials, local and regional organizations, and Town residents.

## HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. Celebrate Lamoine's history and support preservation and educational efforts to increase understanding and appreciation of that history.
2. Continue to protect archaeologically significant sites in town.

## FRESH WATER RESOURCES

1. Protect Lamoine's groundwater in order to provide a safe, adequate household water supply free from contamination and capable of maintaining adequate recharge capacity.
2. Continue and increase voluntary water monitoring and support for maintaining high water quality.
3. Assure that Blunts Pond is a safe place for public recreation.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Identify important natural resource areas as a basis for planning and protection efforts.
2. Support private conservation of identified critical natural resource areas.
3. Provide strong regulatory protection for critical natural resources.
4. Require restoration of natural resources when sites are no longer being used for gravel extraction.
5. Collaborate with other towns and organizations to protect Lamoine's natural resources.

## AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

1. Safeguard lands identified as prime farmland.
2. Support and promote small-scale agriculture.
3. Support and promote local marketing of Lamoine agricultural products.
4. Encourage the preservation and conservation of forest land, with special attention to the natural forest and woodland environment, including along the shoreline.

## MARINE RESOURCES

1. Protect marine resources related to multiple commercial activities with collaborative management in all areas, including on the regional level, such as the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Consortium.

2. Protect and expand public access to marine resources.
3. Develop concrete responses for meeting the challenges of extreme storms and sea level rise.

#### POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Continue to provide an excellent education system which attracts families with school-age children.
2. Ensure that older adults can age in place.

#### ECONOMY

1. Continue to support small businesses and home occupations, including securing quality internet access throughout the Town.
2. Retain Lamoine's flexible Rural and Agricultural Zone.

#### HOUSING

1. Explore the need for more affordable housing in the town.
2. Plan for shifting demographic demands for housing

#### RECREATION

1. Maintain and enhance the Town Parks.
2. Increase the opportunity to bicycle and walk along the roads in Lamoine.
3. Provide opportunities for family and multi-age recreation.

#### TRANSPORTATION

1. Ensure that Roads in Lamoine will be convenient, safe and accessible for all transportation users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and riders, children, older adults, and people with disabilities.
2. Provide parking at the Lamoine Town Hall, the Fire Department and the School that is safe and adequate to requirements.
3. Ensure that older adults are able to meet their transportation needs.

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

1. Continue to run Lamoine's Town government with a small-town feel, providing services efficiently with a minimum of bureaucracy.
2. Develop a Community Center that provides a location for a wide variety of Town events for all ages.
3. Ensure that the Lamoine Consolidated School continues to be a well-regarded school that draws young families to Lamoine.
4. Adapt to changing conditions, needs and technologies.

# Climate Change

In addition to the subject chapters required by the State of Maine for Comprehensive Plans, the Comprehensive Planning Committee has also identified Climate Change as a significant issue requiring attention in Lamoine's Comprehensive Plan. Set forth below are a proposed Policy and several examples of Strategies to be included throughout the Plan.

## POLICY

The Town will incorporate climate change considerations into town decision-making.

## STRATEGIES

### Public Facilities and Services:

- Plan and develop advanced investment in road improvements to minimize flooding and monitor stormwater management infrastructure for its ability to meet or exceed anticipated needs.
- Conduct an energy audit of Town Hall, School, Fire Department, with follow-up actions to reduce heat loss and energy use.
- Explore a plan, and resources, for town investment in community solar energy.

### Housing and Building

- Research ways to make energy audits more affordable to residents
- Update and implement building codes, shoreland and floodplain zoning provisions to ensure that buildings are designed and sited to reduce the impacts of flooding and other impacts of extreme storms.

### Conservation

- Promote conservation of low-lying, undeveloped uplands where coastal marshes, beaches, and other intertidal natural communities can migrate inland with sea level rise.

For a more complete list of recommended strategies to address climate change, see the Public Review Draft of Town Goals, Policies and Strategies (November 2017).