

Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee

Meeting with Lamoine Community Arts

Name of Group: Lamoine Community Arts
Date of Meeting: 12/14/2015
Chair or contact person: Honeybee Heyman

Number of people attending:

LCPC: Val and Mike, Fred and Kathie for both
LCA: Honeybee Heyman, Arlyss Becker, Carol Korty, Kathy McGlinchey, Carol Duffy, Bill Reynolds, Wayne Lawrence, Lolly Lovett, and Tom St. Clair.

Focus or primary responsibility of group: Providing opportunities in Lamoine for people to participate in and attend arts events.

Work of this group in actively planning for the future: LCA has entered into a Lease of the Grange building for three years as of November, 2015, and is committed to fundraising for repairs and making the Grange more of a community resource. Various LCA volunteers have been active in the school, which has now got an active Drama Club. It was noted that the small Grange stage is very comfortable for school age actors.

Expressed concerns of group relating to focus or primary responsibility: Like much of Lamoine, LCA has an aging base of active members and needs to find the key to involving younger people in its activities. Other issues are whether the group can raise sufficient money to undertake Grange renovations and whether code requirements will always limit the kinds of “community center” activity that can take place in the Grange building. It was noted that the age of the Grange building and everyone’s familiarity with it is part of its charm, and that extensive renovations might actually destroy that charm.

There was a discussion of the likelihood of the Town investing in a Community Center near the school. Perhaps the attempt to site activities in the Grange would stimulate pressure for a community center. That led to a discussion of a sidewalk linking the school with the Grange, and the possibility of a designated Village Center.

One member suggested that it made more sense to improve the school than to improve the Grange. Another noted that school gyms are really not sufficient for music and theater.

LCA would like to expand its activities to include a summer art show and some summer children's activities, not necessarily at the Grange. Since the Recreation Committee has some similar ambitions, there may be an opportunity for collaboration. Another suggestion was to have work of local artists hung in the Town Hall.

It would be great to have a list of all the opportunities for participation and appreciation of the arts in the larger region. [Fred tried to get LCA to commit to doing this, without much success.]

Interesting facts/ideas that came out of the meeting: The Lamoine Consolidated School has a good chess club.

Follow up: Get/make a list of cultural resources of the area.