

Lamoine Conservation Commission
Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605
Minutes of the Meeting of 12 November, 2008

The meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Fred Stocking (chair), Carol Korty, Lynda Tadema-Wielandt, Bob Pulver, David Schick (secretary).

Others present: Nancy Pochan (alternate), Ken Smith, Don Bamman, Willem Brutsaert, Lucia Michielli, Joan Bragdon Strout, Bill Fennelly

Agenda Items:

- 1) Review of minutes of the October meeting: After the open discussion with Bill Fennelly, the Commission reviewed the minutes of the October meeting. They were accepted unanimously as amended.

- 2) Recycling discussion with Bill Fennelly, Transfer Station Manager: Bill opened the discussion by stating that at present, Lamoine's recycling program does not involve the town's children. He is of the opinion that if we could involve local children through the school system, as does Ellsworth, that local recycling efforts would be much more successful. Bill noted that the town may end up with a "pay per bag" fee system in order to help cover the costs of operating the transfer station, but that a more effective recycling effort could accomplish the same end. He feels that the town could improve its recycling by roughly 30% even though Lamoine is already recycling as successfully as many other of the most effective towns compared nationally. General discussion highlighted a variety of approaches for involving the town's children through the school system. They were as follows:
 - A comic book format pamphlet, perhaps designed by the kids
 - In class presentations
 - A contest
 - A green science fair

A number of observations were made in relation to the town's recycling effort:

- Good labeling and signage aids in stimulating effective effort (the Ellsworth transfer station is a good example).
- Perhaps a banner showing savings to the town as a result of recycling, displayed at the transfer station, would help motivate people. The savings might be hard to quantify, however.
- Several families in town were able to reduce their trash load to ½ bag per week by recycling effectively.
- Composters reduce the amount of food waste entering the trash stream. The town's program of selling compost bins is helping with this effort. Large community compost piles are complex to manage and might involve state oversight.
- Some Lamoine citizens utilize Ellsworth as a recycling depot because the larger volume at that site allows for recycling of a greater variety of items.

- Collection of the trash load from the school system is contracted and may go directly to the PERC facility. If so, all the recyclable materials originating from the school bypass the town system completely.
- Ink cartridges recycled at the transfer station provide a credit to the school.
- Commercial trash collection in town fills, on average, two full dumpsters per week (more in summer and less in winter). None of this volume is sorted for recyclable material.
- Bill Fennelly provided a copy of the proposed operating budget for Lamoine's waste disposal program. It is approved at \$ 98,620.00 for the 2008/2009-budget cycle. Any sales of recyclable materials collected at the transfer station serve as an offset to that expense.

There was consensus that an educational effort about recycling and directed towards the town's children should be pursued. Fred Stocking proposed three approaches, all of which might be worked around Earth Day in the spring:

- An in school presentation
- A contest for students
- An effort to improve signage

Nancy Pochan stated that she would work with the recycling committee and try to return with a more detailed plan in January. Bill Fennelly noted that any presenter coming into the school might have to be vetted by Homeland Security. Bob Pulver volunteered to inquire within the Ellsworth school system as to who might be available to do a presentation. He will also try to get further information regarding how the waste stream from the school is handled. Bill Fennelly stated that he is always available for further input. The members of the Commission thanked him for his time and presentation.

- 3) Fresh Water Initiative update: Bob Pulver will be meeting with John Peckenham on the budget. Carol Korty noted that the newly awarded grant funds are designated for program expansion and are not available to Lamoine.
- 4) Planning Board and Selectfolk concerns: There was a question as to when the Planning Board was going to address the proposed aquifer protection ordinance. That issue, and cluster housing, was discussed at the last Planning Board meeting. The Board took no action at that time, but the issues will remain on the agenda. There was concern voiced by attendees of the Conservation Commission meeting that Nestle might attempt to gain commercial access to the Lamoine aquifer, and questions as to how the company would be regulated. The definition of "sustainable withdrawal rate" was a particular concern. This is addressed to some degree in the proposed ordinance.
- 5) Listening to concerns of those attending: Nancy Pochan questioned as to whether the Planning Board needed to address the effects of light as a component of the permitting process. Does the town need an ordinance? It was noted that Bar Harbor has passed a light ordinance. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt stated that she would get a copy. Peter Lord will be drafting several model ordinances for consideration. Nancy Pochan also raised the issue of wind power installations, and wondered what permitting process was in effect. She felt that the Commission needs to think about it, and wondered how the Planning Board deals with the issue.
- 6) Lamoine Conservation Award: The Commission failed to adequately publicize a request for nominations and also missed posting a notice in the town quarterly newsletter. Fred Stocking observed that we need to put out a call now, for a decision in December. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt will get a copy of the nomination form to Stu Marckoon so that he can disseminate it.

- 7) Open Space Inventory – Next Steps: This agenda item was not directly addressed due to time concerns, but was tied in to the next item of business.
- 8) Beginning with Habitat in December: Fred Stocking proposed that we should host Bethany Atkins, of Maine IF&W for a Beginning with Habitat presentation on December 10th. The presentation would preempt the normal monthly business meeting. Fred stated that he would coordinate with Bethany and take the lead with the publicity effort. He will call for assistance as needed.
- 9) Other Fall / Winter planning: The following possibilities were discussed:
 - A GETWET meeting with John Peckenham during the winter. It was noted that this year's data would not be ready until spring.
 - Regular work meetings during January and February
 - Some sort of presentation in March
 - An invasive species / native plant presentation with a resource person from the University of Maine Extension Service in April. Bob Pulver will make the contact.
- 10) Budget Policy Discussion: A general discussion identified two areas requiring funding. One is the town budget line for the Land Conservation Reserve Fund, and the other is the potential fiscal need of the Conservation Commission. The Commission has been functioning without a town funded budget, but will need to fund it's membership in MEACC, the conservation award, possibly the proposed student contest, and boat trip expenses if we do a coastline survey. It was suggested that we could do a fund raising event. Alternatively, if the Commission does desire a line item budget, it needs to put forward a proposal to the Budget Committee quickly. Several comments were made in favor of developing a budget request for the Commission. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt moved that we request the annual \$ 1,000.00 deposit for the Land Conservation Reserve Fund. Carol Korty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Further discussion dealt with the fact that the current state of the economy probably did not make it a good time to request a budget for the Commission. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt suggested that we table the idea for one year more, and the consensus of the members of the Commission was that that is the course we would follow.
- 11) Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Schick
Secretary
Lamoine Conservation Commission