

Lamoine Conservation Commission
Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605
Minutes of the Meeting of 14 January, 2009

The meeting started at 7:10 p.m.

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

Others present : Michael Garrett, Nancy Pochan (alternate), Annie Crisafulli (alternate)

Agenda Items:

- 1) Review of agenda and minutes of November meeting: In the interests of time, the minutes were verbally summarized. They were accepted as corrected.
- 2) Report on Planning Board work session: Mike Garrett and Fred Stocking reported on the Planning Board work ordinance work session of January 13th. The Planning Board has completed a review of amendments to the gravel extraction ordinance and has scheduled a review session and a public hearing. The next ordinance that it will be considering is the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone Ordinance (APOZ) approved by the LCC in March of 2008. The work session on the 13th provided an overview of the ordinance and the Planning Board will be doing a more detailed review in the months ahead. There is currently no schedule for a public hearing or a Town Meeting consideration of the APOZ. The Planning Board's initial response to the proposed APOZ was positive.
- 3) Drinking Water Policy Discussion and Planning for March panel on Water issues: Nancy Pochan suggested that we hold the proposed forum in February due to the increased attention that water issues were receiving regionally. She stated that potential panel participants are already committing to scheduled events in other towns, and that it would probably be easier to find people available in February. A review of various schedules seemed to leave February 11th or 25th as possible open dates. Nancy Pochan will contact potential panel participants to see if they are available. The Commission members agreed to have a planning meeting for the event on Monday, January 26th, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting then opened to general discussion and a variety of issues came up for consideration.
 - Carol Korty suggested four additional reference publications:
 - The Water Crisis, by Julie Stauffer
 - Water Research – What's Next, by The Swedish Research Council
 - Urban Water Conflicts, from UNESCO
 - Achieving Sustainable Freshwater Systems, ed. by Holland, Blood, and Shaffer
 - Michael Garrett suggested Cadillac Desert
 - Underground aquifers are much harder to decontaminate than surface water sources. This fact is significant for our local aquifer and should be understood by town residents.
 - Agricultural pesticide use and animal waste stockpiles potentially affect all of Hancock County.

- Potable water resources need to be legally protected. Commercial providers and water utilities need to be monitored but can be an important resource for the community.
- Coastal wells are always at risk of salt-water intrusion if local withdrawal rates are too great, or if sea level rises.
- Commercial water extraction for export can be a threat to local water resources. Most of the participants felt that local water resources should be community owned and controlled, and protected through legal ordinances.
- Because water is always in motion in the hydrological cycle, it can be difficult to determine its ownership status. For the same reasons it can be difficult to determine locally sustainable withdrawal rates.
- Some towns in New England have enacted zero extraction ordinances, but commercial extraction operations move to the next available community. What are the implications if local water resources are affected by adjacent industrial activity?
- We need to consider, as a community, our in-town uses of water. Growth projections for Lamoine indicate that the town will need both water and sewer services in the future.
- Water issues are emerging and significant enough that perhaps a Commission sub-committee needs to be established. It would conduct research and provide the town with appropriate educational materials and advice. We could develop grants to this end.
- The results of any research could be presented during a summer event, perhaps a “green building forum”. The goal would be to develop a body of information and linkages, which would be of use to policy makers, local citizens, consumers, developers and contractors. COA, with its expertise in green building, could serve as a resource for further research.

The open discussion was tabled at 8:15.

- 4) Fresh Water Initiative update: Carol Korty and Bob Pulver reported on current activities. Two teachers at Ellsworth High School, Jennifer Vose and Andrea Beardsley, have agreed to run the program there. In Lamoine, Tim Barlow and Tracy Willis will supervise the 5th and 6th graders on water testing in our school, and Carol Duffy has chosen a related book for her 6th graders to read for language arts. Coordination of the program with the new RSU should be simplified because the RSU will have a science director position, which will interact with all the schools in the union. Both Carol and Bob will be approaching people during the next few weeks to volunteer to help with the testing day in the Lamoine School.
- 5) Planning Board and Selectfolk concerns – meeting 1/22/09: The Commission will attend the Selectman’s meeting on the 22nd. Fred is planning to present an overview of our activities.
- 6) Listening to the concerns of those attending: Several items surfaced. What might be the best planting regime to implement for restoring closed gravel pits? This might be useful information for the Planning Board, and could be one of the questions presented during the Commission’s April presentation on invasive species. The next item in discussion was the observation that the recycling markets are narrowing and that it would be useful to consider methods of recycling on a local basis. Lastly, Bob Pulver noted that the Blue Hill Library has monitors for loan that will quantify the hidden electrical drain of household electrical devices. Cumulatively, these hidden electrical drains can add significant demand to the grid, and increase household electrical costs.
- 7) Lamoine Conservation Award: Fred Stocking requested clarification on who would be making the initial contact visits with the award recipients. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt has been in contact with the

Munsells. Carol Korty and Bob Pulver will go to talk with the Boyntons. There was a short discussion concerning about what to cover during the visits.

- 8) Planning for Display of the Beginning With Habitat maps: The maps presented by IF&W do not fit the current display, however it might be possible to reformat the size from the digital copies we have on disk. Also, we would like to post the maps on the town website. Fred Stocking suggested we print small versions for display and note with them where the full size copies are stored and available for reference. Bob Pulver suggested that we should also have small versions to be distributed with permit applications. Lynda Tadema-Wielandt will research possibilities for printing smaller sized versions of the maps.
- 9) Open Space Inventory – next steps: Compilation of relevant data from the town's tax data is more or less complete. The next task will be to integrate new layers of information, starting with the new Beginning With Habitat maps. A work meeting is scheduled for Jan. 30th at 4:00 PM.
- 10) Consideration of possible Maine Outdoor Heritage Grant (Carol Korty): This is a grant process which awards a total of \$ 700,000 / yr. towards projects which involve groups working cooperatively with state agencies. The agency submits the application, in March, for this current round. The application process is complicated, and we would have to have an agreement in place with an appropriate state agency by Feb. 1, and a formal proposal completed by March 1. The Commission felt that there was not enough time to pull together a viable project this year. Carol also noted that the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund (NEGEF) has a grant program aimed at projects with a public policy component. The deadline for applications is in May, and the grants are for \$2,500. She had several ideas which might be developed: Eelgrass restoration, expansion of the GETWET program, funding for the open space inventory, and the purchase of a new water level logger for the GETWET program. Carol will speak with Jane Disney to determine if she had eelgrass-related projects worth pursuing as part of a grant process. The Commission will consider ways in which we might utilize funding in the Open Space Inventory project. Carol also mentioned that the Maine State Planning Office has a grant process for right-of-way discovery for public shore access. The application deadline is in October, and the maximum award is \$ 2,500. She noted that at one time Lamoine had as many as eighteen public shore access points, but that now there only a few.

Addendum: There was discussion considering the pending transfer and renewal of the Great Eastern Mussel Co. aquaculture lease in the narrows. The lease would be transferred to Acadia Aquafarms LLC., and is located in the area currently being utilized for eelgrass restoration experiments. The transfer could be opened to a public hearing process, if enough individuals requested a hearing. The Commission felt that a public information meeting relating to the lease and transfer process might be useful if there appeared to be enough public interest.

- 11) Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Schick
Secretary
Lamoine Conservation Commission