

Lamoine Conservation Commission
Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605

Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 2011 DRAFT
(rescheduled from canceled January 12th, due to snow storm)

The meeting started at 7:15 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Bob Pulver (Chair), Carol Korty, David Schick.

Absent: Amy Morley, Fred Stocking (Secretary)

Annie Crisafulli (Alternate), Nancy Pochan (Alternate)

Attendees: James Norris and Paul Davis

1. Minutes of December 8, 2010, meeting approved by a vote of the three members present.

2. Board of Selectmen and Planning Board -- none present, no report.

3. Pollution in Upper Skillings River: James Norris and Paul Davis of the Clam Conservation Committee brought their concern about pollution that has closed the flats there to clamming. The most serious section seems to be at Eagle Point. The cause has not yet been determined; it might be from animals such as cows or beaver; it might be from humans' failing septic systems or from a new fertilizers used by farmers.

Hannah Annis, biologist from the Department of Marine Resources, and Bob Goodwin, biologist at the DMR's lab at Lamoine State park, are both working to find the cause. Joe Parada of the CCC will ask clambers of the seven town committee to walk the shore to see if they might be able to see any pollution.

The Clam Conservation Committee will meet 1/20/11 to discuss further strategies. If the source turns out to be from septic systems, they'll seek a grant to pay for correction. If the monthly DMR testing of the flats shows that the pollution is lessening, it is possible that the problem is temporary and will correct itself. LCC said we are ready to help, if told how to do so.

4. GET WET! water testing project started today in Lamoine Consolidated School with the 5th and 6th graders and in Ellsworth High School with two Honors Chemistry classes. This is the sixth year of this program. Carol Korty reported that John Peckenham of the Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research gave students an introductory illustrated talk about ground water -- its sources and causes of pollution. He explained how to collect water samples from their tap at home and described the six tests they will conduct on their samples. Lamoine students will test on January 21st, assisted by several Lamoine volunteers; Ellsworth students will test on January 26th. Peckenham will return on February 2nd for a follow up report for each of the classes.

LCC and Peckenham plan to hold a public presentation in mid-April about the GET WET! project and a report on data collected over the past five years. Students will explain their involvement and show attendees how to test their water samples for nitrates and/or chloride.

5. Bottle Collection proceeds at the Transfer station will come to LCC during March, thanks to Bob Pulver's successful application for this.

6. Free Filbert Trees -- a new program offered by National Arbor Day to plant filbert trees which are fast growing and good for soil retention as well as excellent nuts. Carol Korty proposed they might grow well in expended gravel pits ready for reclamation. Someone from LCC would need to contact the organization for details and speak with gravel businesses in town to find someone interested in participating in this unusual pilot project.

7. The resignation of Amy Morley as a member of LCC was acknowledged with regrets. Amy Morley has felt her increased work schedule precludes her further participation at this time. Amy has been a valuable commission member who has served well with excellent ideas and ability to follow through on several projects -- particularly public showings and discussion of the film Tapped and last spring's Shore Clean Up.

8. LCC replacements need to actively recruit a replacement for Amy right away and possibly looking ahead for member's whose terms expire in June, should they decide not to renew.

9. A Climate Change Program was proposed in December a for LCC's February session. Bob Pulver will see if it is possible to organize something in time for 2/9/11 considering we have lost a week and two members due to Amy's resignation and Fred's temporary illness.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Korty
Secretary pro tem
Lamoine Conservation Commission

Reviewed and approved by the Lamoine Conservation Commission on _____ by a vote of _____ in favor and ___ opposed.

Carol Korty, Secretary pro tem