



Lamoine Conservation Commission

606 Douglas Hwy

Lamoine, ME 04605

(207)-667-2242

www.lamoine-me.gov
town@lamoine-me.gov

Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2023

Members Present: Larissa Thomas, chair; Linda Penkalski, Jack Robichaud, Kerry Diskin

Members Absent: Madison Jones

Alternate Members Present: Mike Jordan

Alternate Members Absent: Joanna Sands

Members of the Public Present: Claire Bennett and Walter Bennett

Meeting was convened at the Lamoine Town Hall by Chairwoman Thomas at 7:00 PM.

Topics discussed:

1. **Approval of the [May 10, 2023 minutes.](#)**
2. **Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant update:** Dave's World has installed the heat pumps at Town Hall. Those at the fire station will be installed next week. Those at the Lamoine school will be installed soon thereafter. For the solar component of the project, the town is about to sign a contract with Revision Energy for the Power Purchase Agreement. Implementation of the solar project is still contingent on Versant approving the interconnection application, which Revision Energy is working on. If the application is approved, the town will start setting aside money for the next six years to pay for the solar panels when we have the option to do so. The earliest date for the solar installation would be next year.
3. **Conservation Commission Vacancy:** Larissa thanked Kerry for her contributions to the Commission and the town. Larissa asked if there were other nominations beyond the one potential candidate who had been mentioned by members previously and who is not currently able to serve. Larissa also acknowledged Claire Bennett who was attending the meeting to gauge her potential interest in serving on the Commission. Mike suggested asking Joanna if she would like to move from alternate to full member.
4. **Tree identification guest speaker event:** Larissa has prepared and distributed a flier and a press release after getting both approved by the guest speaker, Michael Jensen of the Maine Forest Service and Frenchman Bay Conservancy, co-sponsor of the event. Iris Simon has requested that attendees sign in on the day of the event. Larissa asked that another Conservation Commission member manage the sign-up sheet. Larissa will submit the press release to the Ellsworth American on June 15.

5. **No Mow May Recap** –Facebook posts on the Town Facebook page weekly in May highlighted topics around encouraging ecologically healthy yards and some tied in to Mayors’ Monarch Pledge.
6. **Upcoming Events:** **A.** Maine Coastweek shoreline cleanup in September. Larissa will contact Jeff Cosulich to see if he will be leading a Parks crew. Larissa will lead another group. One or both groups will focus on Jordan River, accessing through the new subdivision. **B.** GET WET! Blunts Pond testing will have on-site sample collection on Sept. 11 and titration at the school on Sept. 12. There will be large groups. Linda will organize volunteers as the date gets closer. **C.** Simon Tree ID walk will be Sept. 18. Again, Linda will organize volunteers as the date gets closer.
7. **Mayors’ Monarch Pledge Update:** Larissa noted that work on the Town Hall, school, and transfer station gardens is basically done. She thanked business sponsors McMullen Landscaping, Home Depot, Viking Lumber, Eagle Arboriculture, and Hilts Landscaping for donations of materials for the gardens. Larissa also acknowledged the volunteers who have made the project a success, including Monica Moeller who provided seeds that Larissa and Madison raised, Joanne Dodge, Iris Simon, and Mary Jude who headed up the design and planting of the Town Hall garden, Faith Perkins who helped Larissa plant milkweed at the transfer station, Madison who created the expansive garden at the school, Tiara Woods and her students who raised seedlings and planted milkweed at the school, and Hope Zinke (one of Tiara’s students) whose artwork is on the garden signs. Madison and Larissa attended Tiara Woods’ Nature Night Event on June 1 and sold \$95 dollars worth of milkweed.
8. **Town Land Purchase** – With the land purchase of 37 acres near the transfer station approved and being executed, Larissa asked if the Conservation Commission wanted to make a recommendation to the town that a portion of the land be preserved as greenspace. A brief discussion ensued and it was decided that nothing be done at this time.
9. **Rescheduling the August Meeting Date** – Larissa will be away on the normally scheduled August meeting date, and it was decided that the meeting would be held on August 23, contingent on Stu confirming that there is no conflicting event at Town Hall.

Motions and Outcomes:

1. The minutes of the May 10, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Minutes taken by Larissa Thomas and approved on

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