



Lamoine Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2023

Members Present: Larissa Thomas, chair; Linda Penkalski, Claire Bennett

Members Absent: Madison Jones

Alternate Members Present: Mike Jordan

Alternate Members Absent: Joanna Sands

Members of the Public Present: Jonny Brown and Thia Embers

Meeting was convened at the Lamoine Town Hall by Chairwoman Thomas at 7:01 PM.

Topics discussed:

- 1. Resignation of Jack Robichaud.** Larissa expressed regret about Jack's resignation and appreciation for his service. She then welcomed Jonny Brown and Thia Embers to the meeting. Thia was interested in learning more about the Conservation Commission after attending the Select Board meeting on Monday. Larissa invited her to be in touch if she wanted to get involved informally or officially in future if there is an upcoming vacancy. Jonny has been helping with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge effort. Larissa had asked Jonny if she would be willing to serve on the Conservation Commission and she agreed. Everyone present introduced themselves. Larissa asked Commission members if they supported presenting Jonny's name to the Select Board for appointment despite the fact that she is away during the winter. No one voiced opposition. Mike suggested the possibility of a shared position in which someone only available in the winter could share the position with Jonny. Everyone thought that was a fine idea. Mike is going to ask a prospective candidate for a shared position if they might be interested.
- 2. Approval of the [June 14, 2023 minutes](#)** (Mike made motion; Linda seconded, and all voted in favor.)
- 3. Tree identification Guest Speaker Event:** Larissa will submit a press release to the Ellsworth American for the rescheduled event, set to take place on September 6 at 9am.
- 4. GETWET:** Linda explained the program for the benefit of Jonny and Thea. She has gotten materials organized for the upcoming Blunts Pond testing on September 11 and 12. The slate of volunteers is being finalized.
- 5. Simon Tree ID Walk:** Linda explained the program for the benefit of Jonny and Thea. The event will take place on September 18 (rain date of September 25), probably at noon. The slate of volunteers is set. Thea asked if the program was

open to homeschoolers. A brief discussion ensued and it was determined that further discussion in the future was warranted.

6. **Maine Coastweek Shoreline Cleanup:** Larissa reported that Jeff Cosulich will lead a Parks crew on the Jordan River, another Parks crew may operate via kayak, Tiara Woods will lead a student group at Lamoine Beach or at the state park, and Larissa will lead another land based group in a location not yet finalized. Larissa's crew will work on September 23, while the other crews' dates have not yet been set.
7. **Mayors' Monarch Pledge Update:** Larissa noted how well the gardens are doing and the fact that monarch caterpillars have been found at Town Hall and the school. She mentioned a possible guest speaker with expertise on pollinators who might be invited to give a presentation next spring.
8. **Other Matters:** Larissa noted discussing another possible guest speaker topic with Jonny and invited her to share the idea. Jonny explained her interest in seaweed and its importance to marine ecology. She identified a possible speaker. Members endorsed this as a suitable topic and discussed when such an event might best be scheduled, and tentatively next summer was seen as the best option.

Motions and Outcomes:

1. The [minutes of the June 14, 2023](#) meeting were approved as distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Minutes taken by Larissa Thomas and approved on

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