



Lamoine Conservation Commission

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Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2023

Members Present: Larissa Thomas, chair; Linda Penkalski, Claire Bennett, Madison Jones, Sabrina Jordan

Alternate Members Present: Mike Jordan

Alternate Members Absent: Joanna Sands

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

Topics discussed:

1. **Approval of the [September 13, 2023 minutes](#)** (Mike made motion; Linda seconded, and all voted in favor.)
2. **Conservation Commission Vacancy Filled:** Sabrina Jordan was officially sworn in.
3. **Upcoming Guest Speaker Events:** LCC Associate Member Jonny Brown has been in touch with Hannah Webber of the Schoodic Institute and she has agreed to come give a presentation on rockweed next year. The date will be set as we get closer. Linda has been in touch with Lauren Landers a volunteer for Frenchman Bay Conservancy about giving a talk on pollinators. We agreed to propose our April meeting date, April 10, 2024, as the date for her presentation.
4. **Simon Tree ID Walk Recap:** Linda said she had a great group of volunteers and the event went well.
5. **Simon Tree ID Walk Program for Homeschoolers:** Larissa relayed from Iris Simon that the program was made available, but there were no participants this year. It will be offered again next year, and there was discussion of means to get the word out.
6. **Community Resilience Partnership, Community Action Grant:** Larissa provided an update on the current project (heat pumps are installed; the solar interconnection application was initially denied, but Revision is supplying additional information and is optimistic that it will be approved by Versant), and explained that it will soon be time to renew our enrollment in the Community Resilience Partnership, which she will handle. She then provided information about the Community Action Grant program and initiated discussion of ideas for a new grant application. Some of the ideas discussed included:
 - additional solar if the town's electricity usage exceeds generation expected from the currently planned solar project;
 - additional insulation at the school;
 - partial support of the cost of a trash compactor;

- development of trails/other improvements of open space;
- revegetation/stabilization of Marlboro Beach;
- disease control/education programs;
- solar-powered school zones signs.

Larissa will seek additional information on some of the ideas proposed. Ideas for a new Community Action Grant application will be discussed further in November.

7. **Maine Coastweek Shoreline Cleanup Recap:** Sabrina reported on the Jordan River cleanup led by Jeff Cosulich of the Parks Commission. There was a discussion of ways to encourage better behavior with respect to littering. Larissa reported on her and Jonny's cleanup efforts in part of Partridge Cove, Mud Creek, and the Skillings River. Larissa submitted the combined tallies of trash collected to the State Department of Marine Resources.
8. **Mayors' Monarch Pledge Update:** Larissa explained Joanne Dodge's plan to prepare the town hall planting beds for the winter. Madison noted plans to have the plowing contractor avoid moving snow onto the school garden bed to protect the plants from excess salt. The Commission authorized Madison to purchase three perennials that are more shrub-like to provide cover for pupating caterpillars next year. Larissa reported that Jonny has shared seeds from three milkweed varieties, which Larissa will raise as seedlings for the town gardens next year and to offer as a winter seed give-away. Larissa will prepare an annual report on the town's participation in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in the near future for submittal to the National Wildlife Federation.
9. **Other Matters:** Mike suggested that we contact the Parks Commission to recommend improved signage to direct visitors to the Whitcomb Woods trails, as he has encountered folks who did not realize where the trailhead and parking was. Sabrina asked about the ordinance changes related to the recently passed glamping moratorium. Larissa explained that the Planning Board was handling that, with the assistance of the town attorney.

Motions and Outcomes:

1. The [minutes of the September 13, 2023](#) meeting were approved as distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Minutes taken by Larissa Thomas and approved on

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