



Lamoine Conservation Commission

606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207)-667-2242

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

Minutes – May 8, 2024

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

Alternate Members Present: Mike Jordan

Alternate Members Present: Joanna Sands

Associate Member Present: Jonny Brown

Guests and Members of the Public Present: Erin Witham (Frenchman Bay Conservancy [FBC]), Garrett Black (FBC), Terre Lefferts

Started meeting at 7:03 pm

Approved [March 6, 2023 meeting minutes](#) (Claire made motion; Linda seconded, and all voted in favor.)

1. Erin Witham and Garrett Black of Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) came to discuss their organization's recent acquisition of the Partridge Cove property previously proposed for development as a glampground. They asked the Conservation Commission to provide a letter of support for their application to Land for Maine's Future requesting funds to reimburse them for a portion of the land purchase. They provided a suggested letter; the Commission discussed edits to the text of the letter. Following agreement on the edits, Madison made a motion for the Conservation Commission to sign the letter, seconded in unison by Linda and Jonny; all voted in favor. Erin and Garrett also discussed issues related to improvements of the Partridge Cove property to support public access, including possible collaboration with the Conservation Commission on such work. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission would take the lead on assembling volunteers and identifying a potential local steward who could monitor conditions and issues at the property more regularly than FBC.

2. Pursuant to the Select Board authorizing the Conservation Commission to pursue a brownfields grant opportunity for a Phase I Environmental Assessment of town owned land on Lamoine Beach Road, Sabrina moved to proceed with this and Madison seconded; all voted in favor. Sabrina volunteered to take the lead in preparing the Site Nomination Form.

3. To plan for the June 5 guest speaker event on the subject of rockweed, Larissa asked Jonny to contact Hannah Webber of the Schoodic Institute for a title for her presentation and a short bio for the press release. Larissa will prepare a flier, send an announcement to her email distribution list, post on Facebook, and submit the press release to WERU, Maine Public, and the Ellsworth American. The Lamoine school has been reserved for this event.

4. Larissa provided a brief update on ongoing Mayors' Monarch Pledge work, including raising seedlings for sale and doing prep work for the pollinator gardens. Larissa obtained authorization to spend up to \$150 in Conservation Commission funds for any materials needed for the gardens. She also mentioned being interviewed for a piece on

No Mow May in the Bangor Daily News that ran about a week ago. The Conservation Commission directed Larissa to ask for “No Mow May” to be added to the town’s electronic sign, and to post something on the town Facebook page as well.

5. Larissa provided an update on an upcoming guest speaker event that had been discussed previously based on an inquiry made by a citizen concerned about storm impacts to shoreline properties. Larissa inquired with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about whether they could provide a guest speaker to cover issues related to best practices, permitting requirements, and related topics of concern to waterfront landowners. She has been corresponding with an individual, Madison Bangs, who may give the presentation, or it may be a colleague, and a tentative date has been set: Wednesday August 28. The presentation will be during the day at Town Hall, recorded and widely advertised for those unable to attend.

6. There was a brief discussion of Lauren Landers’ presentation on April 10, discussing ways to support pollinators through gardening. It was noted that the video recording of the informative event is available on the town website.

7. There was a brief discussion of the Lamoine Community Arts (LCA) performance of *Along the Treeline*, created by Lamoine residents and Conservation Commission emeritus members, Fred Stocking and Gordon Donaldson, as well as the open discussion of climate change issues after the Sunday matinee showing. Larissa noted that it was an opportunity to raise awareness of the Conservation Commission’s effort to reduce the town’s reliance on fossil fuels through our first Community Action Grant project involving the installation of heat pumps in town buildings and arranging for solar panels to be installed on two town buildings that will supply town electricity needs through a power purchase agreement. Larissa acknowledged Fred and Gordon’s hard work in crafting the theater piece and drawing attention to a matter of dire importance.

8. Linda noted that she has made the necessary arrangements for GetWet!, which will be Tuesday May 21 at 8am (reflecting a date change) at the school, outdoors if the weather cooperates, or in the gym otherwise. Linda will give the PowerPoint presentation explaining the testing to the students on Monday May 20 at 1pm. Linda was able to obtain a full slate of volunteers, thanks to Sabrina indicating that she could fill the final slot. Larissa asked that they take photos that can accompany an article in the *Lamoine Quarterly*.

9. The Conservation Commission workshopped the draft application for a second Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant. Changes were discussed and agreed upon for the text and the proposed project budget. Claire moved to approve the application as edited and forward it to the Select Board; Madison seconded; all voted in favor.

10. Larissa provided a brief recap of the Open Town Meeting decision to continue recycling using ecomaine, including background explaining the issues.

Adjourned at 8:31 pm

Minutes taken by Larissa Thomas and approved on _____.