Lamoine Conservation Commission
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Minutes for October 14, 2026 Members

Present: Larissa Thomas, chair; Linda Penkalski, Claire Bennett, Madison Jones, Sabrina Jordan
Alternate Members Present: Mike Jordan
Associate Members Present: Terre Lefferts
Alternate Members Absent: Joanna Sands
Associate Members Absent: Hal Lefferts

Meeting was convened at the Lamoine Town Hall by Chairwoman Thomas at 6:30 PM. A motion was made by Claire and seconded by Sabrina to approve the September 9, 2026 meeting minutes.

1.Community Action Grant update
After Dave's World determined that a heat pump water heater could not serve the school's needs and passed on continuing to work on alternatives, Larissa contacted ABM Mechanical, and they have agreed to assist on the project. Their representative visited the school to assess, and his initial recommendation is an efficient gas-fired water heater. Larissa has informed the Superintendent and school board about where things stand, as they will need to approve whatever new approach is recommended; Larissa is awaiting a formal quote and scope from ABM. She submitted a quarterly report on the grant to the Maine Office of Community Affairs, explaining the issues with the water heater component of the project. She was told that MOCA would likely allow use of unspent grant funds for a more costly alternative than what was originally proposed, but she would need to submit a quote and explanation for their approval.

2.Community Resource Fair
It went great, but there was a similar crowd of people in attendance from last year. There was some discussion about how to attract more attendees and get the word our better next year.

3.Coastal Cleanup
It went great. Sabrina's group covered the Jordan River. Terre and Hal did a section of Berry Cove. Larissa did Partridge Cove and a section of the Skillings River. There were two other community volunteers who cleaned up sections of the Skillings River. Larissa wrote up the results for the Lamoine Quarterly, and all cleanup findings have been submitted to the state.

4.GETWET
There was a small group of kids, and it went smoothly. The pH of Blunts Pond was 5.9 this year, whereas in 2025 it was 4.3, in 2024 was 4, and in 2023 was 4.4. Linda will provide info to Larissa for a Lamoine Quarterly article on this event and the tree ID walk.

5.Simon Tree ID walk
It went great, and there was a large group of kids.

6.Mayors' Monarch Pledge
The state park manager said that the new pollinator garden project has been put on hold. Plans for seed saving were discussed and Sabrina and Claire will help Larissa do this in support of the seed giveaway, and to place seeds at the transfer station. Larissa will be submitting the annual report for Mayors' Monarch Pledge soon.

7.Bee Hotel
Sabrina drafted text for an informational sign that will be placed with the Bee Hotel. Larissa will take a pass at editing it down, then will share that with the group for further consideration.

8.Adopt-a-Highway update
Good reports of trash collections have been coming in and folks are getting out to clean up their designated sections.

9: Additional notes Dune workshop recaps: Larissa, Linda, and Terre attended 2 workshops organized by the Hancock County Planning Commission. The first workshop covered basics, and the second workshop focused on potential solutions and permitting issues. The next workshop will center on site visits to locations where such work could be undertaken. Larissa suggested to the Lamoine Parks Commission Chair who has also been attending the workshops that the two groups should meet jointly in the future to exchange ideas.

Grant opportunity for rural fire departments: Larissa learned of a grant for rural fire departments for training and equipment related to fighting wildfires. Larissa reached out to the town's fire chief to see if he would be interested in pursuing this. He said it could be useful for some equipment they do not have currently. The grant does require a 50% match. Larissa posed the question of whether the Conservation Commission would be interested in helping to meet the match goal. There was no objection. Larissa will be meeting with the chief to discuss this further. The grant proposal is due in December, so there is time to have further discussion on the Conservation Commission's involvement at our November meeting.

Motions and Outcomes:

1. A motion was made by Claire and seconded by Sabrina to approve the September 9, 2026 meeting minutes.

Adjourned at 7:22 pm

Minutes taken by Madison Jones