



# Lamoine Select Board

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## Minutes – August 21, 2023

Chair Larissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Select Board members Kathleen Rybarz, Larissa Thomas, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Recreation Committee members Rick Martens, Andrea Smith, Nikki Chan, Amy Phillips, Recreation Committee volunteers Angela Balacco, Brian Devisme and member of the public Thia Embers. Select Board member Gary McFarland had informed the board prior to the meeting he was unable to attend.

**Agenda Review/Addendum** – No changes were proposed to the printed agenda or addendum.

**Minutes** – Larissa said she sent minor corrections for both the July 31, 2023 regular meeting minutes and the August 1, 2023 public hearing minutes. Jo moved to approve both sets of minutes as corrected. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 5** – There were no questions regarding the warrant in the amount of \$156,124.03.

**Expenditure Warrant 6** – The board signed the warrant in the amount of \$43,725.13. Stu noted that a room reimbursement for Sugarloaf for the MTCMA conference was on the warrant for his wife and another will be on the next warrant for Jo who also attended.

**Cash & Budget Reports** – Stu reported cash flow was very good these past two weeks.

**Checking Account Reconciliation** – The Board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the July 2023 checking account reconciliation which had been e-mailed prior to the meeting.

**Encumbrance Order Revision** – The Board signed a correction to the previous encumbrance order as follows:

Previously Encumbered and Expiring – close into appropriate fund			
Item	Close To	Amount	Reason
Town Hall window project	3-01-01	\$384.92	Completed

Incorrectly closed out – but completed in FY 2022/23			
Item	Close To	Amount	Reason
General Maint – Buttermilk Rd.	2-01-03	\$2,800.00	Incorrectly closed out – was actually completed.

**Meeting with Recreation Committee** – Members of the Recreation Committee and the Select Board introduced themselves. Committee chair Nikki Chan said the committee met recently and they have a classic problem which has persisted following the COVID 19 pandemic. She said the program doesn't have an option for a paid position, and they

know the program was not meant solely for youth programming. She said the only committee members are parents of young folks. She said the committee has invested hundreds of hours among a small group of people to run the programming. She said there is a strong demand, saying soccer has about 75-kids participating along with basketball. She said the community values the recreation program, but people don't seem willing to help operate it and cited several examples. She said they realize that family time and work conflict with present committee members, and the committee needs new energy. She said no one seems willing to chair the committee which requires a lot of time and communication. She said the registration program is archaic as it's done by paper, and that seems to be a roadblock of sorts. She said it's difficult to run. She said she's been the main communication link and she keeps things in a Google account and that information needs to be extracted and disseminated.

Nathan asked if they need an on-line registration process. Ms. Chan answered yes. She said they're at a transition point to get the soccer program up and running and there are not enough people willing to commit to coach or to administer the program. Nathan noted that no one who was on the committee in 2014 when it was formed is on the committee any longer. He said it's a roller coaster.

Larissa thanked the committee members for doing what they've been able to do. She said the committee is unpaid and asked if a stipend might help, and whether the registration fees could fund a stipend. Ms. Chan said that might help. She said a big piece of the work is getting the facilities ready and preparing for the season/program. A discussion followed on facility preparation.

Kathleen asked if there are software packages available, and if there is funding for that. Stu said the issue is having someone to coordinate the entire program. Ms. Chan said it's not a good practice as it exists. Angela Balacco said it's not good for the next generation that's coming along. Nathan asked how much is coordinated through the school, and a brief discussion followed.

Stu said the programs need someone to manage them, and he's not able to do it. Jo said the program was designed to be for all ages, and there is a lot of interest in recreation from older folks. Ms. Chan said a software system could do about anything that's needed and a discussion followed. Nathan said it sounds like a website for the recreation program should be developed with the ability to pay and sign up for programming on line. Kathleen suggested looking at the big picture. She said there is a facilities and infrastructure committee. Nathan asked if a website developer could help. Stu said there would still need to be a person to administer it. Rick Martens said he might be willing to come up with a package. Ms. Balacco said she's a database manager and a discussion followed about the programs and data needed.

Stu said he would challenge the committee to develop, for lack of a better term, a Recreation Director job description. Discussion followed about the need and program pricing. Nathan asked how many would be expected in the soccer program. Ms. Chan said about 75. Larissa asked about the number of volunteer coaches and a discussion

followed. Larissa said it sounds like the needs are widely dispersed and a lot of volunteers are needed.

Ms. Chan said folks would be upset if the town didn't have a recreation program and they had to utilize the YMCA, Harbor House or Acadia Youth Sports, as there are limited options through those programs. Nathan said the town struggles with filling committee positions. A brief discussion followed on volunteering.

Ms. Balacco said the current process is unsustainable and would burn anyone out. She said if there were a paid coordinator that might be a good start. Brian Devisme said a full time person would help and a brief discussion followed. Jo said the position could grow into something. Nathan said there needs to be someone on the committee to have oversight of the recreation program, or perhaps a paid committee position. He said getting volunteers is a challenge. Discussion followed on the need to know what the town and a potential staffer would be getting into. Stu suggested a regional coordinator with Hancock and Trenton might be an avenue to explore. A discussion followed about facilities available.

Nathan said it sounds like there are some things to push forward. Ms. Balacco said they'd like to get soccer off the ground for fall. Larissa asked if there is a plan. Ms. Chan said if she doesn't do it, it won't happen. She said it takes hours, and she doesn't know how to commit to that. A brief discussion followed.

Jo asked if the program is doable. Mr. Martens said he's seen some cloud based solutions and the committee could look at an application demo. Discussion followed on who might run it and how fast the soccer program could start. Nathan asked if the committee was comfortable with the technology path. Several answered yes. A discussion followed about how to get going with it. Stu said he would suggest the committee meet ASAP and work with the town on the payment options and a job description for a potentially paid position.

After the committee left, the board asked attendee Thia Embers if she had any item in particular she wished to discuss. She said she had attended the town meeting the previous week where it was noted that the public is welcome to attend Select Board meetings, so she was curious.

**Appointments** - Stu explained that neither he nor the Board had learned that Steve Gabel-Richards had wished to move from an alternate to a full Planning Board appointment until after the previous meeting. He said he spoke with Bob Christie who was very willing to be the alternate member with Steve being the full member. Jo moved to correct the appointments, Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Certificates of Appreciation – The Board signed certificates of appreciation for service to Jeff Cosulich and Brett Jones for their work on the technology committee.

Resignations – Jo moved to accept the resignation / retirement of Nancy Jones as the assistant town clerk. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Jo moved to accept the resignation of John Robichaud from the Conservation Commission with regret. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Appointment – Jo moved to appoint Michael Fuller to the Board of Appeals as an alternate member. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

It was reported that Karen Davis has offered to serve on a committee. The Board asked Stu to contact her to find out what particular opening she might be interested in.

**Hancock County Planning Commission – Support Letter-** After a discussion about the wording of the letter and editing a problematic sentence, Jo moved to sign the letter of support, as edited. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Map 3 Lot 2** – It was noted the article to authorize sale of the portions of the lot with dwelling units passed. Nathan moved to request Herrick and Salsbury to create two lots and ask for consultation on the best options. There was a discussion on how to market the lots and choosing a real-estate agent. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0**

Moratorium – It was noted that the moratorium on hotels, motels and glampgrounds overwhelmingly passed at the special town meeting last week. Jo moved to sign the petitioned ordinance. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Larissa said this will create a need to revisit the town's ordinances. She said the Select Board should invite the Planning Board to meet along with the town attorney. She noted the Planning Board meets on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Jo said she's not able to meet that evening. She suggested the Select Board could invite the Planning Board to the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Nathan asked if the Planning Board has had a chance to discuss the moratorium. Larissa said there should be a chance for the Planning Board to congeal, as they have a new member. Jo said she would prefer to go ahead and meet with them. Nathan said he's not prepared to give the Planning Board any direction until the Select Board leans what the Planning Board might be looking for. A brief discussion followed.

Jo said if the Planning Board desires, the Select Board could meet with them at a separate meeting. Kathleen suggested the Select Board meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Nathan said that would be fine as it gives a chance for the Planning Board to meet first. He said the Select Board should be a sounding board. Kathleen moved to invite the Planning Board to the September 21, 2023 meeting and letting them know the Select Board is happy to give them support. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Project Updates – School Cistern** – Stu said a building to house the cisterns for the school is to be constructed. The fire department cistern has not yet been installed. He noted the fire department took down the school flagpole last week (using the ladder truck) to make room for paving and improvements. A new flagpole is likely in the works.

Road Paving – Stu said he called B&B Paving but has not yet received a paving date.

Fire Department Floor – Stu reported the floor epoxy job is done and the fire department is waiting for the material to fully cure before starting to move items back into the station. He said the apparatus will return to the station this coming weekend. He noted that the ceiling painting is complete and the walls will be painted shortly.

**Comprehensive Plan Implementation** – Larissa suggested deferring discussion with the Planning Board on their tasks under the Comprehensive Plan considering they have plenty on their plate. Jo said the Select Board should continue to talk about the non land use issues in the plan to keep it on the Select Board's plate. Larissa asked about other groups that have implementation roles. Jo said the Committee on Aging was suggested in the Plan and that's been formed. She said Housing matters were alluded to in the plan, and the effort will be made to continue looking at those issues. Kathleen said the Parks Commission has some things to do under the plan. She asked about a trail on the Maine Coast Heritage Trust property. Stu said that would not be under the Parks Commission umbrella as it's on private property.

Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Nathan said the committee has not met in a while. He said the committee had asked about municipal space needs. Stu said he understood that a request was made, but has received no guidance from the committee on what needs they might want. No meeting has yet been scheduled. Larissa suggested letting the committee know what input there is from the Comprehensive Plan on infrastructure. A brief discussion followed.

Committee on Aging – Jo said the committee meets next on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Testing Contract** – Stu recommended a contract with Water Quality and Compliance Services to draw and test samples from three residential wells. Nathan so moved, Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Solar Project** – Larissa said she is thrilled to see the interconnection application with Versant submitted. Stu said he signed the application on behalf of the town as directed in a previous meeting.

**Other** – Stu reported he would be out of the office for most of Tuesday and Thursday.

Jo said she had a good time at Sugarloaf as the Maine Town, City & County Management Association presented the Linc Stackpole Manager of the Year award to Stu. She explained how she and Bonnie Marckoon worked with Maine Municipal Association to surprise Stu. She said she was especially happy that his family could attend. Stu said he was extremely honored to receive the award, and very surprised.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board