



# Lamoine Select Board

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## Minutes – October 19, 2023

Chair Larissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present were: Select Board members Larissa Thomas, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon and Parks Commission Alternate Member Georgianna Pulver.

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

**Minutes – October 5, 2023** – Larissa said she sent some minor edits to Stu. Jo said she found a couple of typos. Gary moved to approve the minutes as edited. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 11** – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$199,144.38. Stu noted the first plow bill of the season was on the warrant, and the school warrants made up a majority of the expenditures.

**Cash & Budget Reports** – Stu said he found nothing remarkable in the reports. Jo said the spending seems to be lagging behind the percent of the year passed. Stu said there should be a paving bill soon.

**Parks Commission** – Larissa noted the current Parks Commission chair Cathi Goebel's resignation is on the agenda addendum. Alternate member Georgianna Pulver said the commission met on the 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed the boat ramp. She said there was no conclusion, but the commissioners favored repair, but the town needs to know if it's viable and whether the existing ramp is dangerous. She said the ramp is not used very much, and the commission wished to have input from the Select Board. She said she wasn't sure if the Conservation Commission was looking at grants.

Larissa said she saw the meeting minutes and the Conservation Commission wanted to let the Parks Commission know they would be pleased to assist with grant writing. She asked what type of ramp might be envisioned. She said there are removable ramps, but that creates a burden the town would have to deal with. Mrs. Pulver said the Parks Commission did not discuss what might work. She said they did discuss the need to demolish the current ramp and possibly rebuilding it.

Jo said the current ramp has become dangerous, and it's not really used. Gary said it's in a poor location and not really functional. Kathleen said it is dangerous, and often cars go off the end of the road there because of confusion. Nathan asked where a grant might come from. Larissa said there is the possibility of the Land and Water Conservation Fund which funded the original ramp in the mid-1970s, and the Boating Facilities Fund.

Stu said rebar is sticking out of the cement now and that's of immediate concern. He said Parks Commissioner Bob Ehlers is willing to cut that if the town would buy a saw.

Larissa said the grant process would including having a state representative meet with town officials at the site. She said that would allow the town to discuss ideas. Mrs. Pulver said that sounded like a good idea, and it would cover the town's bases. Kathleen said perhaps money could be used for a raised pier to allow for increased access by a larger population. Mrs. Pulver asked if the Parks Commission is expected to do that. Jo said she has worked with Doug Beck of the State Bureau of Parks & Lands on a site in Ellsworth. She said the process is lengthy and involves a lot of bureaucracy. Larissa said it's a free consultation.

Nate said he'd like to inform the state that the town intends to remove the ramp for safety reasons. There was a brief discussion about other ideas. Mrs. Pulver said the Parks Commission would concur with removal. Gary moved to purchase the saw to remove the rebar. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

The Board discussed writing a letter to the appropriate agency. Stu said he would call first. Larissa said it would be appropriate to reach out to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to consult on what is appropriate.

Dog Waste Station – Whitcomb Woods – Mrs. Pulver said the Parks Commission was requesting to move the dog waste station at Lamoine Beach. Stu said that was done earlier this week. Mrs. Pulver said they would also like to have one installed at Whitcomb Woods. Kathleen moved to authorize the purchase. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Mrs. Pulver said the Parks Commission needs more members, and she would like to remain an alternate member.

Larissa said the ribbon cutting for Whitcomb Woods was very nice. Stu noted the land donor Katherine Dudzinski passed away a few months ago, and that he spoke with her sister, Judy Whitcomb yesterday.

**Paving Update** – Stu said the projects were completed in 2-days. Nathan said the crown on Needles Eye Road is pretty steep. Stu said the newly paved roads need material on the shoulders to eliminate the lip. Jo said the work at the Seal Point Road intersection looked good. Nathan moved to authorize the Road Commissioner to arrange for material to be installed on the shoulders. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Tree Work** – Stu said Greg Gleason is still around and there are several trees that came down in the past two tropical storms that should be cleaned up. Gary moved to authorize the Road Commissioner to engage Mr. Gleason's operation to take care of that. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**2024/25 Budget** – The Board reviewed the proposed Administration Budget. Nathan noted the school budget is likely to increase thanks to an influx of new students so it would be good to keep the municipal side as low as possible.

Stu noted that assessing has moved from the salary line to the general administration line as the town has hired an independent contractor to be the assessor. Jo asked

about adding more funding for the facilities maintenance director who is doing a great job. Stu said the amount proposed is significantly more than he's charging the town already, so it should be more than sufficient, even with a raise in the hourly rate. There was a brief discussion about the actual costs for tax maps, which was higher this current year than is budgeted for the upcoming year.

No changes were proposed to the budget which will be presented to the Budget Committee on Monday evening.

**Dangerous Building** – Stu reported a notice of violation was sent out by certified mail earlier in the day to the owner of 591 Douglas Highway. He said he's pessimistic that the property owner will make needed safety corrections by the deadline given in the notice, and suggested that the town attorney be at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in November to guide the town forward. There was no objection.

**Waste Disposal** – Larissa mentioned there was an article in the Ellsworth American about non-member potential use of the yet to open facility in Hampden run by the Municipal Review Committee. Stu said he spoke with the town's sales representative for Pine Tree Waste yesterday and there are contingency plans for PERC users with Pine Tree to use Casella facilities if PERC fails to reopen. The Board asked if a Pine Tree representative could meet with them at the next meeting. There was a brief discussion about recycling costs and whether the Municipal Review Committee plant would function.

**Maine Cyber Reach** – Stu reported that he's engaged the program run through the University of Maine at Augusta to assist with computer security policies and training for the town. He said the service is free and has met with them a couple of times so far.

**Cable TV Channel** – Stu reported that the system is working correctly again. He said operations manager Justin Zinke managed to fix a computer display issue and an audio issue has been resolved.

**Solar Energy** – Nothing is new since the previous meeting.

**Comprehensive Plan Implementation** – There was nothing to report, though Kathleen noted that the Planning Board has been holding workshop meetings.

**Resignation** – Jo moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Cathi Goebel from the Lamoine Parks Commission. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Returnables** – Jo said the Committee on Aging has submitted the request to purchase safety vests for pedestrians. Stu said the next available month is February 2024. Nathan moved to approve the request, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Aquaculture** – Gary said a Trenton resident contacted him regarding an aquaculture project in the Jordan River which is just beyond the scope of Lamoine being notified. He said he brought in the information for the rest of the board's information. Kathleen said

LPAs are a one-year lease. There was a brief discussion about the details of the permit application.

Stu said he put a communication from the Department of Marine Resources in the packet regarding municipalities imposing moratoria on lease projects. He said the DMR letter said that's not proper. Kathleen said there likely will be residents coming to talk about aquaculture in November. There was a very brief discussion about clam flat closures.

**Other** – Map 3 Lot 2 Survey – Larissa noted that an e-mail from Herrick & Salsbury was with tonight's material indicating the survey would be done in mid-November.

MacQuinn Road – Stu reported that Steve Salsbury wants to meet with the Board on November 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding MacQuinn Road and the plan by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. to close the road to thru traffic at their operation in Hancock. Kathleen said that could be problematic for public safety vehicles.

Committee on Aging – Jo said the committee will invite residents to the February 2024 meeting to be volunteer drivers for Friends in Action. She said even a couple of people could make a big difference in town.

Jo said they had a nice enjoyable public walk on the new Whitcomb Woods trails on the 15h and praised the Parks Commission and the Girl Scouts for their work.

Conservation Commission - Larissa said the Conservation Commission bounced around ideas for the next community action grant and there were lots of thoughts. She said the town will have to renew its partnership with the program in order to apply. She said she would take care of the update forms.

Solar Charger – Kathleen said she saw a solar powered charging station installed in Westbrook that looked like it was a good idea. It would be used for phones and other charging devices.

Shellfishing Committee – Kathleen reported the representative from Ellsworth, Cathy Pickard has agreed to chair the Shellfishing Committee. She said the hope is to hire some part time wardens for the summer so that the current warden can have some time off. The Joint Municipal Board is now chaired by Dana Smith of Franklin

**Next Meetings** – The Board will hold regular meetings on November 2 & 16, December 7 & 14, January 4 & 18, 2024 and February 1 & 15, 2024. Kathleen said she might not be able to attend on November 16.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board