



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – February 15, 2024

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

Present were: Select Board members Larissa Thomas, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason (arrived 7:45 PM); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Parks Commissioners Karen Davis, Georgianna Pulver, Jeff Cosulich, Oliver Curry, Bob Ehlers, & Emerson Whitney and via zoom, realtor Holly Taylor.

Agenda Review/Addendum – Larissa asked to move the meeting with the Parks Commission to after the Treasurer's reports, and to try to meet with realtor Holly Taylor when Nate arrives after 7:30 PM. There was no objection.

Minutes – February 1, 2024 – Kathleen moved to approve the minutes as written. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 19 – The board signed the warrant in the amount of \$198,114.54. Stu noted that several salt bills, plowing, school warrants and the annual regional animal control bill made up the bulk of the costs.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu noted that now that the audited beginning balances for the various funds have been received, he's included the fund balance report with tonight's submissions. There were no questions.

Meeting with Parks Commission – Larissa noted that the commission had suggested eliminating the trash cans and grills from Lamoine Beach Park and asked the commissioners to summarize the thinking behind that decision. Jeff Cosulich said the grills are in poor condition and sustained some storm damage. He said the commission received reports of people using the trash containers to dispose of household trash to the point that the containers are often overflowing. He said there was a suggestion of locating a small bin near the shore so that people could dispose of trash that washes up on the beach. He said the commissioners were interested in having a "carry in/carry out" policy when it comes to trash. Georgianna Pulver said the idea was to try it for 30-days.

Larissa asked if the grills get much use. Karen Davis said they are rusty and often stuffed with trash and they are very unsightly. She said she doesn't know if people use them. She said most who do cook, bring their own propane powered grills. She said she discussed trash pickup with Mike Hodgkins who is there frequently and said the trash is often overflowing. She asked why the town is taking care of other peoples' trash. She encouraged a policy to have users carry their own trash away. She said the beach is used more often than it used to be.

Emerson Whitney said she lives very near the beach and the grills are popular. She said that she's concerned that removing the trash cans could lead to more trash. She said perhaps the cans could be modified to limit disposal of large trash bags. She said the storms did some damage to the grills.

Larissa asked if the commission had looked at trash can options. Commissioner Davis said they could. Kathleen said the Board recently approved having Bill Fennelly pick up the trash, as Mr. Hodgkins had asked to have that part of his job description revised. She said perhaps the number of grills could be reduced.

Oliver Curry said the idea behind having a bin on the beach was to discourage trash from the picnic area but provide an option for folks who pick up trash on the beach to have a place to put it. Bob Ehlers said there was a lot less trash on Marlboro Beach when a trash can was placed there. He said Marlboro Beach has become much more crowded.

Stu reported that he and Commissioner Davis met with officials from the Maine Department of Transportation at the end of Lamoine Beach Road and the DOT is working on a design for the end after the boat ramp is removed. Commissioner Davis displayed a picture of the concept from MDOT. She said they are discussing the right of way to the beach. A discussion followed on who would pay for the modifications and relocation of signs.

Jo said the Land and Water Conservation Fund was extremely interested in doing something at Lamoine Beach after the ramp is removed. She said that takes time, but they have money available. She said a plan is needed. Commissioner Curry said not being able to drive right to the beach may force people to carry a heavy boat a long distance. A brief discussion followed on parking configurations.

Larissa urged the Parks Commission to think outside of the box on an ideal design. Commissioner Whitney said the boat ramp area is currently utilized by a lot of people to access the beach. Kathleen asked if a plan needs to accommodate food trucks in the future. Jo asked if the overflow/trailer parking area gets used. Commissioner Whitney said yes, it often is full. Commissioner Ehlers says that area has become overgrown in the past few years. Commissioner Cosulich said the whole plan needs fleshing out and the Commission plans to meet at Lamoine Beach in May.

Larissa said she would be happy to help with grant writing. Commissioner Davis says something has to be done with cleaning up and repairing due to storm damage. She noted the January 10, 2024 storm ripped out about 10-feet of lawn and road. A brief discussion on future storms followed.

Versant Pole Permit – Gary moved to approve a permit for Versant Power on Needles Eye Road. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Larissa signed the permit.

Annual Town Meeting – Stu reported Joe Marshall will be able to moderate again this year. He said he will act as Deputy Moderator for part of Election Day, as Mr. Marshall has a commitment that evening.

The Board signed a resolve naming the 2023 Citizen of the Year and a resolve naming the Citizen of the Year award after the late John Holt.

Cable TV Upgrade – Stu reported the current CTV scheduling machine is no longer made or supported. He said he has been in touch with a company that specializes in municipal cable systems and the tech committee will meet next Tuesday. He said there may be a recommendation in the near future about a system upgrade.

Opioid Lawsuit/Bankruptcy – Stu said the town received a request from a company that is involved in opioid lawsuits requesting a vote on their bankruptcy plan. He said he had no knowledge of ever becoming a part of a suit and suggested that no action be taken in regard to the vote. The Board took no action.

Facilities & Infrastructure – Stu reported the committee will meet on March 19, 2024.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation – Stu reported the town meeting is being asked to vote on a proposed change to the Building & Land Use Ordinance which addresses one part of the Comprehensive Plan. There was a brief discussion on the status of the proposed amendments being worked on by the Hancock County Planning Commission in regard to affordable housing. Stu reported he'd not had any contact from HCPC in that regard.

Committee on Aging – Jo reported the committee has several projects going on. She said they're putting together package with reflective gear, a map and a flyer as part of the visibility for pedestrians and bicyclists program. She said they plan to have those available at town meeting. She said they plan a series of walks, including a cemetery walk; a Resource Fair at the Grange, and they hope to take part in a grant program called CHEF. Said the idea is to establish community gardens and they're working with the Lamoine Little Children's group. She said this is just for information at this point, but they're scouting locations to place raised beds, and the program would need formal approval and a grant approach. She said they don't have a budget yet. She said possible locations explored included the fire station, the former Anderson property, Lamoine Beach, and the former Lamoine Baptist Church building lot.

Sale of Map 3 Lot 2 – Jo moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1MRSA §405(6)(C) to discuss negotiations on the sale of Map 3 Lot 2 with the realtor. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0 at 7:46 PM. Out at 8:05 PM**

Gary moved to reject an offer of \$100,000. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** Larissa signed the rejection form.

Further discussions followed in regard to the community garden.

Other

Audit – Stu reported the audit came in yesterday. He said he had called the auditor before he sent the [town report](#) out for printing last week and was told they weren't sure when it would get done, so that audit was not included in full in the report. He said the report does say that the audit was printed after the town report printing deadline and is

on file at the town hall and posted on the website for review. He said there were no surprises in the audit.

Conservation Commission – Larissa reported they will have two guest speakers coming up. On April 10, 2024 there will be a presentation about pollinators and on June 5, 2024 a presentation about rockweed. Both sessions will be at the school.

Larissa also reported the Community Action Grant deadline is in July.

PERC Update – Stu reported he spoke with the town manager of Orrington earlier in the day about the status of PERC and GRACE and restarting the incinerator. He said nothing more is known at this time, but there is a meeting about Casella renewing the operating contract on the Juniper Ridge Landfill going on tonight.

Recycling – Jo said she saw something from ecomaine about recycling, but couldn't recall exactly what it was. She said she would try to find it.

Land Conservation – Kathleen noted the Frenchman Bay Conservancy has finally completed acquisition of the Whitney Forest in Ellsworth and may be able to look at other land conservation efforts in Lamoine.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board