Lamoine Select Board
606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

Minutes – October 15, 2026

Chair Kathleen Rybarz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Present were: Select Board members Larissa Thomas, S. Josephine Cooper, Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason, Amy Morley; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Fire Chief/Recreation Committee Chair Rick Martens, School Committee/Planning Board Chair Brett Jones, Recreation Committee members Maura Condon, Code Enforcement Officer Robert Grant Jr., Appeals Board Chair Michael Fuller, Technology Committee Chair and CTV Ops Manager Justin Zinke, Budget Committee Members Ann Dederer, Kelli Wentzell, Healthy Aging in Lamoine Chair Sherry Rogers, Parks Commission Chair Lisa Mechaley and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs-Lord.

Agenda Review – Kathleen asked that a discussion of communications regarding required training for Planning and Appeals Board members be placed at the end of the regular business portion.

Minutes – October 1, 2026 – Larissa, Amy and Jo all presented minor edits to the minutes. Nathan moved to approve as edited. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 8 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of $175,310.59. Stu noted he printed the warrant three times earlier in the day as there were two mail deliveries with invoices. He noted the paving for the fire station parking lot and school warrants made up the bulk of the warrant.

Cash & Budget Reports – There were no questions regarding the written report.

Stale Check Order – Nathan moved to approve an order regarding disposition of stale checks. Amy 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Dog Bite Incident Follow Up – Larissa said she submitted a couple of changes to the proposed letter to the Hancock County Administrator**.** A brief discussion on the wording of the letter followed, along with the overlap of responsibilities of the Animal Control Officer, Sheriff's Department and Regional Communications Center. Amy reported she attended the Maine Municipal Association convention and a session on Animal Control. She moved to send the letter as edited. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0. The Board signed the letter.**

Eagle Point Energy Center Update – Stu reported a communication from the trash to energy plant in Orrington is in the Select Board packet regarding plans to get back in operation. Larissa said it was an optimistic letter.

Website – Kathleen said the job description with the Planning Board ad looked good. Stu said he created a separate page for assistance programs including General Assistance, the Heating Assistance page, and a link to 2-1-1.

Community Action Grant – Larissa updated the hot water heater situation at the school. She said ABM Mechanical is recommending a gas fired water heater and will submit an estimate. She said the project will need approval from the Community Action Grant program as it's a significant change from the planned heat pump hot water heater.

Planning Board/Appeals Board Training Requirement – Amy said she shared an e-mail from the Maine Office of Community Affairs late this afternoon. She said she moved to include the required training in the Planning and Appeals Board job descriptions at the previous meeting. She read language from the Legislative Document approved at the latest session and read from the MOCA e-mail.

Planning Board Alternate – Amy said she would like to know the next steps in choosing an alternate for the Planning Board. Kathleen said that it would take place at the next meeting. Amy said there were communications from two interested applicants in the packet tonight. She said applicant Ian Heyse is not available for the November 5th meeting and asked how the board could handle that. Nathan said the Board does not have to approve an appointment at the next meeting. Amy asked if Stu could coordinate with the candidates to find a time to meet with the board. Kathleen moved to wait until all applicants were available. Jo 2nd. Nathan asked what would happen if they were not available at the following meeting. Kathleen suggested using Zoom if a candidate is not available in person. Stu said he would communicate with all applicants to let them know the Board will discuss the appointment at the November 5, 2026 meeting.

Meeting with Board Chairs & Department Heads
The Board and the attendees each introduced themselves. Kathleen said the general purpose of the meeting is to communicate how the town can assist the departments and committees with their tasks. Each person present addressed the board.

- Healthy Aging in Lamoine – Chair Sherry Rogers said nine people attended the recent walk in Whitcomb Woods the group sponsored. She said they held a resource fair. Brett Jones asked if there was any progress in creating a resource list for things like a handyman. There was a discussion about the town supplying recommendations.
- Board of Appeals – Chair Michael Fuller said the board handled two recent appeals that were linked. One was a gravel permit issuance and that was upheld. The other was a stump grinding site plan review permit which the Appeals Board overturned and that action has been appealed to court.
- Budget/Aging – Budget Committee member Kelli Wentzell said it's often difficult for older people to access online information.
- Recreation Committee – Chair Rick Martens said the committee sponsored soccer and cross-country programs over the past few weeks. He said this might be the last year for cross-country as the coach is retiring. He said the basketball program is just starting. He said the ice rink has issues with where it is located as it's not flat, and they're trying to find a solution to leveling an area which may mean the rink will move to a different spot behind the school. He said they could use more committee members. Maura Condon said she's crafting an "Explore Lamoine Challenge" program and explained how that might work.

- Community Center – Kathleen gave an update on the community center, saying the current thinking is to locate it on the recently purchased land next to the salt/sand shed. She also gave a brief update on the Animal Control Officer position and noted the town has succeeded on several energy conservation grants through the Community Resilience Partnership.
- Fire Department – Chief Rick Martens reported the infrastructure is in excellent shape as the roof was recently replaced and the apron in front of the fire station was just replaced and paved. He reported that truck 405 will be going for repairs to Island Falls in a few weeks. He said the plan to put an addition onto the station has hit a snag with engineering as the original estimate exceeded the budget significantly. He said a revised proposal is still above budget. He said he might explore a USDA grant, noting the station's 2nd floor is not currently ADA compliant.
- School – School Committee Chair Brett Jones said the state school construction cycle is being addressed. He said having a well-maintained facility works against prioritization on the list. Nathan asked about the fire department using the school for meeting space.
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Jennifer Kovacs-Lord said the current election has made things busy. She said her biggest concern at the town hall is the lack of parking which can make it dangerous on Election Day. She said absentee balloting has been very busy. A discussion followed on possible alternate voting locations. Jennifer said the mail service has been extremely inconsistent.
- Budget Committee – Ann Dederer said the committee is concerned about the cost of recycling. She said it would be helpful to have a job description packet for each committee.
- Parks Commission – Chair Lisa Mechaley said the Parks Commission recently recrafted the special events form after several requests for big events that would have overwhelmed Lamoine Beach Park. She said members are attending shoreland resilience meetings put on by the Hancock County Planning Commission and gave an update on possible funding sources for repairs to the Lamoine Beach dune damage. She said they participated in the beach cleanup this year which was a lot of fun, and there is not a lot of trash at the beach.
- School – Brett said the school population is down by about 10-students compared to the previous year. He said the population is currently about 127 students. He said the new Superintendent of Schools, Ellen Halliday, is great and they continue to look at space needs. He said Lamoine is one of the highest performing schools in the county and state. He said renovations may be coming soon, but they'll be expensive.
- Planning Board – Chair Brett Jones said they are working on ordinance amendments to comply with State mandates on housing. He said lot density will likely change and that may impact subdivisions. CEO Robert Grant clarified what constitutes a subdivision regarding both structures and land splits. There was a lengthy discussion about the impact of the housing rules on existing subdivisions that have their own covenants, and the impact of the housing opportunity legislation.
- Technology – Committee chair and CTV Operations Manager Justin Zinke says the committee has hit a bit of a dry spell after several upgrades. He said the

town hall has new PCs, the cabling to the computers has been upgraded, and a new firewall is in place. He said the CTV system has been upgraded to high definition and a new delivery system. He said a new wi-fi router is here but has yet to be activated.

- Conservation Commission – Chair Larissa Thomas gave a brief summary of the commission's activities. She said they've participated in several educational activities including the GET WET program and tree identification at the Simon Trail. She said there have been a few guest speakers, and they're continuing to work on identifying resources and applying for grants where appropriate. There was discussion about the building efficiencies at the town hall, school and fire station and the solar panel installations and comparing costs before and after.
- Comprehensive Plan – Kathleen noted that work should begin in a couple of years on the next Comprehensive Plan for the town, as the current plan will be 10-years old in 2030.
- Staff – Kathleen said there has been discussion on how to replace Stu when he retires in a couple of years.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board