

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 16, 2024

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Karen Robbins, Clarke Cooper, Jenna Howard, Jesse Nankin MacMahon, Priscilla Tucker

The meeting, held by Zoom due to snow, was called to order by Phine at 5:36 PM.

Minutes: The December Minutes were approved by the Commission as amended.

Water Access: The \$200,000 loan has been closed on, Packard's have to provide a few details yet before closing on the purchase of the property. The Select Board is currently deciding from which source (Bank Loan or the designated Water Access Fund) the purchase money will be drawn from. The total legal costs to date are unknown, The Site Management Committee will be holding two town wide workshops (February 4th and 7th) to gather resident input into the preferred development and management of the property. Darla Jewett will be facilitating both workshops. The Select Board minutes have recorded that the Board isn't against accepting a LMF Grant. The letter of intent for a \$20,000 Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant has been submitted.

Resilience Committee Update: Jesse and Jenna report ACRC will review updates to the Climate Plan at this week's meeting.

Bioblitz: Priscilla's former graduate student Matt Chatfield's (UMO Professor of Conservation Biology) Lab to inventory the creatures and their habitat on the town-owned parcel. The citizen science "The Big Night" Project that is managed by his lab already has multiple years data for the vernal pool on the property. Priscilla notes grad students in ecology and evolutionary biology may be available to help Arrowsic residents conduct a bio-blitz this year. One could be in the spring and one late summer or early fall.

February Meeting: Priscilla will chair the February meeting.

Nature Notes: Clarke notes daffodils sprouting on January 15. Jesse notes a hawk has taken two chickens and has seen bluebirds by her feeder. Priscilla has seen bluebirds as well. Phine notes the Back River has been a muddy color all summer until now; and there is a small creek on her property that she used to be able to jump across, that is now 12 feet across, signs that a lot of erosion going on. Priscilla mentions Paul Burgess' green crab project has been tracking where the crabs are, showing signs of less salinity in the river over time.

Other Business: Pierce (age 4) notes we need more animal crossing signs.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10. Next meeting will be February 20.