

## **ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

December 19, 2023

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Karen Robbins, Clarke Cooper, Jenna Howard, Guest Sam Saltonstall

The meeting, held in person at Town Hall by headlamp, was called to order by Phine at 5:49 PM.

**Mail:** We received two more invoices for water quality testing and a donation.

**Minutes:** The Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes were approved by the Commission as amended.

**Energy Efficiency Presentation:** Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) Leader Sam Saltonstall joined the meeting to discuss giving a 30-minute Inflation Reduction Act presentation in Arrowsic regarding efficiency resources and where to find them. In this presentation, he will discuss appliances, weatherization, solar, and electric vehicles to give citizens an idea of what is available and set long term goals. This would be a 6:30 meeting on January 16th, immediately following our next meeting. Sam will customize a poster for the town with info that can be shared.

**Water Access:** The Commission amended and approved a letter of support for the LMF Grant. See attached. There will be a Select Board meeting on December 26. Clarke shares that the Site Management subcommittee met last week with abutters to ensure that the management plan works well for them. The Commission received an update on progress towards purchase.

**Climate Action Plan:** The Commission reviewed the Climate Plan's Implementation Chart and made suggested edits. Jenna will share the list of updates for the Plan with ACRC.

**Water Quality:** Phine had last two invoices paid once we received all results. This includes 11-01-23 invoice no. 10162550 for September, invoice no. 10160378 for August, as well as one dated 6-21-23 invoice number 10155891 for May.

**November Field Trip:** We went to Mill Pond Marsh. Karen, Phine, Jesse, Pierce, Clarke, Lisa, Ruth Indrick attended. Nancy Sferra provided some history. ACC will advertise November field trips outside the weekly meeting notices in the future.

**SPCA:** We have a large pile of new wood chips thanks to Karen.

**Donations:** Bruce Zuwalick gave \$25 which will go into Water Access Fund. We also got a \$4000 donation from Henry Foundation to the Alewife Fund. An acknowledgment letter was sent from Arrowsic to the Foundation.

**Bioblitz:** Karen will work with Priscilla to coordinate a bioblitz inventory the creatures and their habitat on the town-owned parcel. Matt Chatfield's (UMO Professor of Conservation Biology) Lab may have grad students available to help Arrowsic residents. 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. Dates are to be determined, one could be in the spring and one late summer or early fall.

**Nature Notes:** Clarke reports that it is dark! Phine saw the tide coming over the marsh and got photos from multiple posts. The first Sewall Pond freeze was on December 7, but it has thawed since. Jenna reports many winter moths. Karen says it is the most she's seen. Jenna reports a group of 8 coyotes one evening in December after dark off Newtown Rd.

**Other Business:** Clarke asks about winding down post project after the next King Tide after four years. He notes MDOT has our work on their schedule and the number of photos we have is vast. Karen suggests documenting big storms only. The Commission voted to wind down baseline data and revisit additional monitoring in 10 years or as needed, leaving the posts on location so there is an opportunity to continue. All were in favor.

Jenna suggests we should check with Ruth Indrick on the NOAA grant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26. Next meeting will be January 11.