

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 20, 2024

Present: Karen Robbins, Clarke Cooper, Jenna Howard, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Priscilla Tucker (Temporary Chair)

The meeting, held in person, was called to order by Priscilla at 5:35 PM.

Minutes: The January and February Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Water Access: The Water Access Committee has received bids to tear down the buildings. The Commission voted unanimously to work toward an independent Water Access Committee. As a stand-alone committee they would have greater agency. Clarke and Karen volunteered to draft an enabling ordinance.

Annual Report: Our annual report is due April 1. The commission is working on a budget. Karen will write a draft report for approval at the March meeting. Budget should include water quality, signage, event planning.

Resilience Committee Update: Jesse reports ACRC have completed the Climate Plan and next, it needs to be adopted by the town. The question is how to implement the plan and what comes next. There is discussion about dissolving the larger committee and forming a smaller team solely focused on implementation. This team would work closely with town committee chairs to ensure progress is being made and needs are being met. Another option is to collaborate with Georgetown and hire a paid coordinator to help with implementation.

Bioblitz: Karen and Priscilla met with Nancy Sferra about the bioblitz. Three dates have been chosen: Saturday April 13 afternoon, Sunday afternoon, June 9, morning of Saturday, August 24 to inventory the creatures and their habitat on the town-owned parcel. It would be a four-hour recording of what is alive. We envision having as many people record as possible. INaturalist will be used as a recording tool. Insect experts are needed. Staging will be at Mark and Angel's garage. Matt and his grad students will participate. Jesse will provide contact info for Cooperative Extension's entomologist Charles Armstrong.

Roadside Cleanup: April 27th is the date set! This is the Saturday before pickup. April 19th and May 3rd

Invasive Species Workshop: On April 11, Phine is attending this workshop in Orono.

Fish Commission: Karen measured the salinity going into the pond 1.4 parts per thousand during January storm and during the February high tide. There is a three times higher salinity going into the ponds during these high tides. At highest tide, the water went one inch over the culvert. She and DMR might put up nets at next astronomical high tide to see about creatures entering into the pond at that time. The culvert took some damage and the plunge pool moved slightly in the force of nature. There will be a celebratory harvest around Mother's Day.

Nature Notes: Jesse notes a maple tree dripped on her head this month, and bulbs have been popping up and a bald eagle has been in the backyard perhaps looking at her chickens. Jenna has seen coyote tracks. Priscilla has seen bluebirds at feeder. The recent light snow showed the trail of a

meadow vole in her yard. Phine notes she heard a kingfisher in February and Clarke has heard that too. Karen saw her first chippy of the season today.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53. Next meeting will be March 19th. Priscilla may set up a Zoom to join the next meeting.