

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 20, 2022

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

1. The meeting, held on Zoom, was called to order by Phine at 5:07 PM.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of August meetings were formally accepted.
3. **Community Resilience Recap:** The selectboard approved the resolution. We met to decide to submit the grant proposal in September. We met another time to work on the **Climate Action Plan** grant. Huge thanks to Priscilla and Jody for completing the grant and helping us select a contractor. The grant proposal was submitted on September 19th at 5:20 p.m. ahead of schedule. This morning we learned our application had been read.
Phine asks that we all re-watch the groundwater webinar, especially the section with Jayne Knott and her crew describing their work, prior to meeting with her and the Westport Island crew to discuss a joint groundwater study. We would make a decision after we meet with them and have our questions answered. Dennis of Westport Island is talking to potential contractor Jane Knott about moving forward. Phine sees it as a less-intensive grant opportunity to lay some groundwork on our groundwater situation. We will discuss this more by email or at our next meeting.
4. **Sewall Pond Conservation Area:** Phine reports that the selectmen said that it's possible the Sheriff's Department would do parking ticketing for us. That would make it possible for us to limit the number of cars. It would require we amend the parking ordinance that says "no parking dusk to dawn" because it says "violators will be towed" to "ticketed." We'd need to mark where the parking would be. Phine would say that we'd like them to be in talks with the Sheriff because we think it's a good idea. We'd have to determine:
 - what the fine would be
 - what signs are needed and what they'll cost
 - and possibly other details with selectboard membersWe could put it into practice around mid-June. The comprehensive plan says the ACC should develop a management plan covering permitted use, vehicle access, and parking.
5. **ACC Page Update: Let's add the following items:**
 - Yardscaping presentation
 - Groundwater webinar
 - Climate Resilience Project: Our workshop, GOPIF grant info, An update including that our committee decided to submit a grant for the first round so we can put together a Climate Action Plan for the town. *Maybe include:* The timeline for the project, the four other towns working on this, how to get involved. Priscilla will work on a narrative to inform the town in the best possible way.
6. **For the Arrow:** Let's share baseline data about I-Naturalist, which Priscilla is setting up soon. This is meant to educate the town with photos of creatures and plants. Research-grade photos will be used by experts through this app. Priscilla has plans for

a future bio-blitz to identify as many species of plants and animals as we can in one day with community members and students. This could get people in town excited about the biodiversity of the natural world. Deadline: Early November. Priscilla could show folks how to use it.

7. **November Field Trip:** Sundays in early November, we take a field trip. Jenna requests November 13th. The group is focused on Bufflehead Preserve. (We could ask Nancy Sferra.) Jesse and Mike are friends with Randall, whose land we'd be passing over. It's on the Kennebec just north of Jesse and Clarke. The Northeast Side of Fisher Eddy. You cut down Randall's long driveway and hang right. Karen pointed out a paper by Jacobson, Jacobson from 1989 that identified vegetation to the species level along the Newtown Creek. It would be interesting to compare what we might find now. Perhaps as a future field trip? Clarke will keep us posted about the Marsh Crawl date.
8. **Time of Meetings:** 5:30 is our new time! Next meeting will be at that time.
9. **Water Quality Report:** June's Phosphorus was 24 micrograms per liter; Chlorophyll count was 0.007 mg/L. We need help next Tuesday: Karen and Phine will do the testing on October 13th.
10. **Alewife Committee:** Karen reports it is a work in progress with a strong team. They'll meet the second Tuesday of October. They'll be a draft ordinance for our commission to see soon. A handbook is being created so anyone can join the group and have all the information needed. DMR is worried about the effect of the cat tails at the outlet. There may be a site visit to look at the passage from an Alewife perspective.
11. **New Members:** Let's put out a notice for a new member. We could ask Erin Hartman who came to the climate workshop. Jesse/Karen have her contact info to see if she'd be interested. Our group will brainstorm other names as well.
12. **Swearing In:** Jenna and Priscilla and Clarke need to be sworn in. Barbara would come to a meeting if we are in person. Those three will connect with Barbara to become official members or renew our membership.
13. **Nature Notes:** Jesse reports monarchs on our asters, and hummingbirds still spotted. Clarke reports the last hummingbirds visiting, too. Priscilla reports a group of juvenile plovers at Reid State Park are still here as of last week. Juvenile [semipalmated sandpipers](#) too. Phine reports lots of baby ringneck snakes and a 5-6 in. long milk snake and garter snakes. Jenna reports fat toads in the woods, a large grub, and watching a fuzzy, unidentified black caterpillar getting eaten by a frog.
14. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenna Howard