

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 17, 2022

Present: Karen Robbins (Acting Chair), Jesse McMahon, Priscilla Tucker, Clarke Cooper, Karin Sadtler, Bob Ater and Jody Jones

1. The meeting, held at the Town Hall parking lot, was called to order at 5:03 PM.
2. The minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted, as amended.
3. Mail: none
4. Community Resilience Partnership.
 - a. Following the regional meeting on April 28, 2022 hosted by the New England Environmental Finance Center and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, the ACC decided to reach out to town committees asking for guidance on climate change related impacts, e.g. what issues they could identify and how they might be solved. The goal is to aggregate answers from the various town committees/departments in preparation for a town-wide workshop. The deadline for feedback is mid-June. The ACC is in the process of doing this. Clarke will contact the Shellfish Commission and Roads Committee, Paul, the Recycling committee, Karen, the Properties Committee, Jesse and Karin, the Fire Department and Phine, the Planning Board.
 - b. Phine communicated by email that the Resolution of Commitment required to be a GOPIF Community Resilience Partner will be on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Becoming a Partner allows a town to apply for GOPIF Community Action Grants. The Commission thanks Phine for making this happen on such a compressed timeline.
 - c. There will be a one-on-one meeting with the New England Environmental Finance Center and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership via Zoom to discuss the application process to submit a Climate Action Plan Grant for the September 2022 deadline.
 - d. Jody spoke to her interest in addressing climate change issues. Jesse suggested choosing a platform where information on GOPIF-related activities would be updated on an ongoing basis. Karen charged Jesse and Jody to identify an appropriate platform.
5. Water Access
 - a. Members of the Select Board and ACC along with neighbors visited the Range Light property.
 - b. Walter Briggs is sending a letter to the GSA inquiring whether the property could be donated to the town.
 - c. Bob expressed interest in organizing a committee to construct a management plan for the property if town ownership becomes an option.
6. Committee Membership – The ACC briefly discussed identifying a new member for the committee
7. Trail work – There will be a work party on May 21 at the Sewall Pond Conservation Area. Assignments, for picking up trash at Sewall Pond throughout the summer, were made.
8. Alewife monitoring

- a. Monitoring is in progress with evidence for several pulses of movement into the pond
 - b. Karen provided an update on assembling an Alewife Working Group.
9. Nature Notes: Notes delivered by email included one from Phine who reported the last frost was on May 5 and a second by Paul who reported the Pileated Woodpecker who was drilling into his siding last year has not returned. He speculates that a fisher, spotted in the Whitmore Landing neighbor, may have preyed upon a porcupine who had been consuming his raspberry bushes. Priscilla and Clarke both noted fewer rodent sightings compared with previous years. Priscilla and Jesse are using the Merlin Bird ID App developed by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to record and identify bird songs. They noted there are many species of warbler in the area presently. Jesse spotted her first hummingbird on May 6th. She also saw a coyote, possibly a juvenile male, trying, unsuccessfully, to catch one of her chickens. Her columbine are growing well this year compared to last year.
10. The meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.
11. The next meeting will be June 21, 2022 at 5PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Tucker, for Karen Robbins (Acting Secretary)