

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

June 15, 2021

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Karen Robbins

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:14 PM
2. The minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as written.
3. Mail: None received this month
4. Alewife Monitoring: The spring monitoring was discontinued Memorial Day weekend because the water temperatures had risen and the fish were leaving the pond. Many more fish were seen leaving the pond than were counted passing into the pond.
5. Water Quality Monitoring: HETL reports that they will be unable to provide the total phosphorus results for May as they accidentally used the incorrect reagent. We haven't received the May results for chlorophyll α yet. The monitoring schedule is Susan and Karen July 6, Phine and Karen July 20th. We will test for e-coli in July as there will be many swimmers using Sewall Pond by then.
6. SPCAMP: Litter patrol schedule June 20-Phine, June 27th-Susan, July 4th-Clarke, July 11th-Paul, July 18th-Phine. Phine reports that the signage placed this spring is still up. Phine will cover up the word "Kindle" on the "Kindle No Fires" signs. Members are asked to think about the language on the larger revegetation sign to be placed at the start of the trail.
7. Town Meeting: It was noted that because of a scrivener's error the article to raise and appropriate \$500 for the Conservation Commission only asks for \$400 again this year. Karen agreed to field any questions that might arise at the Town Meeting about the alewife management ordinance.
8. The "thank you" article for the *Arrow* was approved and Phine will send it and the water savings tips article on to the *Arrow* editors. The next *Arrow* is anticipated to be published after the Annual Town Meeting.
9. Nature Notes: Paul sent Phine his observations. His scarlet tanager is back and he has seen it up close for the first time. He reports that it starts to sing at the first sign of morning light. Also, his pileated woodpecker has return after being away for two weeks. It seems to be checking out its reflection in the windows. Noreen found an enormous sphinx moth in her door yard and was able to pick it up. She was also surprised that it wasn't near any of Noreen's nightshades as that is their preferred food source. When Noreen researched the moth's behavior, she learned that they fly several miles at a time especially if the wind is right. Noreen also saw a black garter snake. She hasn't seen one in many years. Susan is starting to see toads hanging around her garden hose. She assumes this is because the year is so arid. Susan has seen a swallowtail, her first king bird and a cat bird. The young-of-the-year blue birds are still feeding at her bird feeder and the second clutch she expects to fledge this coming week. Phine has historically had flocks of cedar waxwings fly through; this year a small flock is staying around. Cedar Waxwings are known to nest in groupings made up of 6-8 nesting pairs.

10. Other: There was a discussion about reaching out to the Conservation Commission Consortium for a zoom meeting or a field trip so that each Commission could showcase their recent projects. Members are wondering about the status of the deer exclosure project that was scheduled for this summer at the Holt Forest.
11. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:01 PM.
12. The next meeting will be July 20, 2021 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary