

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
April 20, 2021

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Jesse McMahan, Karen Robbins

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:12 PM
2. The minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: A summary of state wide brown-tail moth distribution for the year 2020 was received.
4. Water Saving Tips: Jesse has finalized the article. Phine will send it for publication in the next *Arrow* and ask Paul Kalkstein to put the article on the ACC website. Sheila will be asked to direct interested residents to the article at one of the two locations.
5. Roadside Clean -up: Phine has had a number of people sign up to pick up litter along several roads and reports that Route 127 is mostly covered.
6. Water Quality Sampling Schedule: Phine and Karen May 11, Susan and Karen May 25.
7. Alewives: The ACC affirmed that no harvesting will take place this year. Phine has reminded the Select Board to include the alewife article similar to last year's in this year's Town Meeting warrant. Because of COVID the stop trap is not going to be set this year. The modified monitoring protocol for this season was discussed. It was decided that similar to past years there will be two time slots each day that volunteers can sign up for. At each time slot the data sheet that has been used in the past will be filled out and during each time period the final v-notched weir into the pond will be watched for ten minutes. A fish is counted as "passed into the pond" each time an alewife (and its tail) cross completely into the pond. The total number of fish counted within the ten-minute time period will be recorded on the data sheet. If volunteers are able, scale samples will be taken from fish that are dip netted on their way into the pond. After sexing and taking a scale sample the fish will be passed into the pond and recorded as passed. There is some interest to try sampling every hour for a couple of days when the run is the strongest. This is to further understand if there is any movement pattern over the course of a tide or day as to when the fish finally pass into the pond. Karen will send out an email to volunteers listed on the permit in the next day or so because, while no fish have been seen yet, the herons and osprey have been seen fishing near the culvert and on Sewall Creek.
8. SPCAMP: The Maine Tree Foundation chip pile is reported to be huge. The ACC has permission to drive a truck to the pile. Phine will

check with Brian Elwell to see if he has a way to load a truck and move the chips on to the Sewall Pond side of the road. Phine has a laminated sample of the revegetation sign. Signs will be mounted on a piece of plywood, then staked out or hung depending on the particular characteristics of the area being protected. Trail Maintenance Day will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. Members will meet to add chips to the path, maintain water bars, brush in unauthorized paths and install signage.

9. Other: The Commission considered having Sheila include Nature Notes in her weekly notice. After a discussion it was decided that ACC would revisit the Nature's Notes blog idea. The Picture Post observation caps have been replaced and the posts maintained for the season. Phine will have Clarke reimbursed for the maintenance expense of \$110.61. The next astronomical high tide will be the beginning of next week. Commission members are eager to return to in person meetings. If the weather allows meeting outside at a socially appropriate distance in person meetings will be considered.
10. Nature Notes: Every spring Clarke has seen a single beaver swim by his house down the Kennebec. He reports that for 2021 the beaver has swum. Phine has received the summary report from the tick survey she participated in last year: 1 adult, 7 nymphs and 167 larvae, 14% of those tested had Lyme's disease, none had anaplasmosis nor babesiosis. She noted that the larvae aren't tested. Jesse spotted a mourning cloak and a honey bee March 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 days earlier than typical. Phine noted that the daffodils are blooming 10 days early as well. Noreen really enjoyed seeing this past week's snow on the maple tree that is in bloom in her door yard. Susan had her first salamander night on March 26<sup>th</sup> and has noticed the vernal pool that eggs were laid in is now almost dry. She has resisted the urge to save the eggs. She also reported seeing the Wilder Bridge ospreys about a week earlier than in the past. She has five blue bird eggs in one of her bird houses and expects them to hatch in about a week. Many have noticed the "dearth" of brown-tail moth nests on the island compared to recent years and several people noticed that areas inland have lots of nests.
11. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:04 PM.
12. The next meeting will be May 18, 2021 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary