

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 19, 2022

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Jesse McMahon, Priscilla Tucker, Clarke Cooper, Paul Schlein, Karen Robbins, Michele Gaillard, Michael Kreindler, Paul and Marnie Kalkstein, Karin Sadtler

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM.
2. The minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: As of this morning the only mail received was the water testing results for August 2021. There is some confusion as to why this mailing has happened as we already had the results for August. Luckily, upon checking they are the same as the previously reported results, TP=27ppb, and chlorophyll α = 0.004 $\mu\text{m}/\text{mL}$.
4. Alewives: It is anticipated that the trap will be set sometime in the next week. The indicator species - osprey, seals and cormorants are back in the river. It was unanimously decided to convene an Alewife Working Group made up of Commission members and residents that have expressed interest, to determine the next steps forward for the re-established Sewall Pond fishery. They will consider options and recommend to the Conservation Commission if a permanently standing Fish Commission is appropriate for Arrowsic. If a Fish Commission is the recommendation, the details of composition and responsibilities of the Fish Commission would be articulated so as to be the basis of an enabling article for consideration at the 2023 Town Meeting. Karen will try to populate and convene the Group in the next month.
5. Roadside Clean-up: Phine and Clarke have coordinated with Recycling Committee. Roadside clean-up will be the 30th of April 9:30-11:30AM, the rain date will be the entire following week so that people can choose the sunny day of personal convenience to pick up along their assigned section of road. Several people have already signed up for a section of road as their schedule doesn't allow for participation on the 30th. Jon Biehler noticed an extraordinary number of nips bottles while doing Rte. 127. Thanks to Mike McMahon who will be providing the truck and bag pick up services.
6. Water Testing: First trip of the season will be May 24th. Phine will order test kits for total phosphorus and chlorophyll α . It was noted that the HETL prices have almost double since last season. Because our 2022-23 budget was already submitted, so couldn't be increased, it was decided to pay for May and June testing out of the current fiscal year's budget.
7. Citizen Science: Priscilla provided a brief history of the iNaturalist app and how it might be used as an Arrowsic Group. She has found it quite intuitive and user friendly. She also found hundreds of existing records for Arrowsic and majority of the records are with the larger Preserves in Arrowsic. She will share at the next in-person meeting a typical page on the app and how to interface with it. SEEK (to ID plants) and BloomWatch (to record cyano-bacteria) were also discussed. Phine mentioned

the Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) are using CyanoScope to collect and ID algae samples.

8. Salt Water Access: There has been only one response to the Water Access Survey. In summary: this non-access owning individual would want at a minimum an all-tide carry-on access. While they would be willing to pay a fee to access the site, they would prefer free access to all town residents. They think the Property Management Committee should be the lead managing committee and is willing to volunteer to help. This and any other responses received will be archived with the Commission minutes. Phine has connected with the GSA staff member responsible for the Range Keepers House. They wrote that the town should make an appraisal and offer. Then the offer would be responded to. It was unclear if the offer should be made before the property is listed and hazard remediation is completed. Phine will ask. One suggestion was to offer only the amount currently held in the water access. It was suggested that criteria developed by the Waterfront Access Task Force be methodically applied to the property. To that end Phine, Clarke, Jesse and Paul will meet at the property at least once more. Neighbors will be invited. Ideally the visit will be at low tide and perhaps again at high tide. Waterfront Access Task Force records have not been located yet. The files and map may be in the Town Hall basement.
9. Climate Resilience Partnership: The kick-off meeting is scheduled at Thursday, April 28th, 4:00-5:30pm and will be virtual. It was decided not to invite additional town committees or interested individuals to the first meeting. It was further decided the Commission will be reporting back to and including the appropriate parties as the process goes on.
10. Picture Posts: Clarke reports some pictures were taken today at high tide during the storm event. The post on Indian Rest Rd. still needs repair and repositioning. Clarke is sourcing a new post foot as the current one is snow plow damaged.
11. SPCAMP: Phine asked if anyone knew the location of the "Closed Dusk to Dawn" sign. She is in the process of replacing it. The Fire Department held a training exercise in the Conservation Area. Karin Sadtler reported that the Fire Department had an educational training experience about 500' from the water and were very careful to not create erosion nor trample the vegetation. Phine agreed that they were very respectful of the resource and thanked them for their dedicated work. Trail maintenance will happen Saturday May 21st at 10 AM. Chips will be spread, signage placed and undesignated paths brushed in.
12. Nature Notes: Phine saw a spotted salamander laying eggs in her pond on the 4th of April. Jesse saw a porcupine at the very top of the poplars that line the right side of Baldhead Rd. Her red-bellied woodpecker is back. She and her son are enjoying watching their vernal pool and have noted salamander and frog eggs. Clarke has couple of robins that are attracted to or confused by their reflections on Clarke's car windshield. He further notes that they are making quite a mess that is not attractive nor confusing. Priscilla is thrilled by a couple blue birds frequenting her suet feeder. She assumes they are nesting nearby in some cavity. Paul reports that "his elusive bird" is back for the third year. It is usually high in the canopy and makes a unique

high-pitched sound. He is working on identifying it using non-digital methods. Mike has seen a pair (and photographed one of them) of bald eagles perched in his pine tree.

13. Other: Phine will be away for the May and June meetings. Karen will chair them; Priscilla will take minutes for the May meeting and is out of town for the June meeting. Noreen has asked to step down from the Commission. The Commission accepted her resignation with sadness and a heavy dose of gratitude for her years of service. Phine will notify the Select Board of the opening. Karen will check with a previously identified candidate and others will think about potential replacements.
14. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:04 PM.
15. The next meeting will be April 19, 2022 at 5PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary