

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 18, 2023

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Karen Robbins, Priscilla Tucker, Clarke Cooper, Carla Weeks, Jessie Nankin McMahon, Jenna Howard, Guests: Bob Ater, Lisa Margonelli and Kevin Kauffunger

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Phine at 5:30 PM.

Minutes: The Commission voted to approve February and March minutes.

Mail: The ACC received approval from Maine DMR to harvest alewives.

Shellfish Conservation Committee Marsh and Flat Cleanup: Lisa and Kevin are part of the Shellfish Conservation Committee, charged with overseeing the resource. They wish to clean up the marshes of garbage that accumulates. Former Clam Camp students, now age 14, Wren and Charlie are leading the charge, suggesting July 23rd community cleanup of South Squirrel Point Flat and adjacent marsh. Access would be by boat or walking on the trail. An Arrowsic armada of boats could be needed. Their team suggests a community public art creation using marine debris on our shores would happen later in August. Other materials would be recycled or thrown away. Carla suggested two artists we could work with. We can contact Kevin for more information: kkauffunger@freudtools.com.

Water Access: Bob Ater has been working on the Water Access Committee with Mike McMahon and Michele Gaillard. They understand 31 Indian Rest Road could be coming up for sale and the owner has expressed interest to sell this property to the community for public water access. Bob, Karen, Phine met with Chris Wilcoxson, our Codes enforcement officer, to ask for his opinion of the site from a codes perspective, for canoe or kayak put-in on the river. The lot is a grandfathered house lot of under two acres in a 5 acre minimum area, and is in the Resource Protection zone. It has 300 ft of shore frontage. The new high water line is within 20 feet of the foundation of the house and 10 feet of well. ACC and Water Access Committee will work on a plan to present to the town at town meeting, and ask for non-binding votes on acquiring this lot and ways to fund the acquisition. Karen will ask Lisa to do an appraisal of both this property and the town owned lot on Arrowsic Road.

Signage for salamanders and other creatures: Roads commission supports identifying critical road crossing to vernal pools. Turtle sign will be installed near Crosby Rd intersection.

Climate Resilience: Jesse and Jenna updated the committee on the latest meeting and gave an update on the action plan drafts.

Alewives: Arrowsic will celebrate its first harvest the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 13, starting at 9 am and ending around noon. Alewives will be dipnetted out of the trap, and we will alternate between harvesting the fish and letting them go in the pond, up until a maximum of 720 fish are harvested. Jesse suggests a road sign is needed. Perhaps a resident who is part of the fire department could help with traffic control. Six to twelve alewives may go to every household in attendance.

Trail work: The Commission will spread wood chips and put signs back out at the Sewall Pond Conservation Area on Earth Day. We will solicit volunteers. We will plan to meet Saturday afternoon at 2pm on April 22nd, with a rain date of April 23rd at 2pm. Wheelbarrows, loppers, compost rakes and other metal rakes are needed. Phine got materials to make seed balls.

Roadside clean up: Annual clean-up will take place next month.

Water Quality Testing: The committee agrees to continue doing five tests at a cost of \$85/month for the tests. We can start on May 16th.

Budget: We have \$75 extra. That could pay for a replacement sign on the gate at SPCA.

Nature notes: Jesse and Pierce saw their first snake in the garden and first morning cloak. Phine saw the first white admiral butterfly and saw the first hazelnut flower on the 8th of April. Priscilla is hearing pine warblers and thrushes. No swallows have been seen yet. Jenna saw the first spotted salamander underwater in a small pond.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47.