

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 16, 2019

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:01PM
2. The minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting were accepted as written.
3. Roadside cleanup will be on May 4th at 9:30AM. Phine will notify the various “town communicators” and put up a sandwich sign at the top of the island.
4. Alewife monitoring is expected to begin next week.
5. Water quality monitoring schedule: May 14 Phine and Karen, May 28 Susan and Karen. Karen will reach out to Doug Sutor to have him meet us for the May 28 session.
6. Conservation Area Matters: The Commission will let the Select Board know the new signage is up at the Conservation Area and to ask for more rigorous enforcement of the dusk to dawn ordinance. We will also ask if there is enough “No parking” signage to allow for enforcement of the parking ordinance.
7. Phine met with the Select Board regarding the three proposed warrant articles. The brown-tail moth research article will be on the warrant. The two resolutions will also be on the warrant with the words “planning, policy and purchasing” to replace “any” in the local Climate Resolution per the opinion of the Town Counselor.
8. Clarke has updated the Conservation Commission web site with brown-tail moth information and will add Picture Post information when the project is up and running.
9. Picture Post Project update: MDOT has sent a draft Licensing Agreement that they will finalize when they have the written deed language for the areas of the right-of-way where the monitoring stations will be.
10. Other: A. Clam Camp and the Fall Festival coordinators are planning for 2019 events. The Conservation Commission will think of ways to participate. B. Clarke recently attended a Forestry Conference and learned about emerald ash borer. There is some concern that because of the rapid death and brittle nature of the wood after being killed by the emerald ash borer, towns will incur extra public safety risk and expense if trees aren’t taken down before being attacked by the emerald ash-borer. The Commission will do an inventory of ash species along public traveled ways for baseline information. C. There is a bill in committee at the legislature to require the Board of Pesticides to approve the restriction of individual pesticides by municipal ordinances. It may be modified and added as a rider to another bill. Paul will monitor the public input process. D. The Recycling Committee is working on an outreach program about Arrowsic becoming a ZERO WASTE community, Paul expects it be scheduled for the fall.
11. Nature’s Notes: Ice out was “proclaimed” to have been April 2nd—should Arrowsic have a clock lottery like other towns? Noreen saw a tom turkey in full display in her front yard and wondered if he was courting his reflection in the window until she saw the 6 hens coming around the corner. She also found a large collection of gypsy

moths egg masses on their property. The Holt Forest had a gypsy moth egg mass count done; results are currently unknown. Susan's peepers and wood frogs were first heard on April 7th and on April 15th she observed a fairly large migration of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and a green frog moving toward the vernal pool next to her property. Susan also reports a marsh hawk cruising Spinney Marsh. Phine saw phoebes in March and Clarke reported on a deer banquet that the coyotes had near his house. Paul saw a particularly colorful pair of cardinals.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29PM
13. The next meeting will be May 21 at 5 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins
Acting Secretary