

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 20, 2019

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:01PM
2. The minutes of the July 16, 2019 meeting were accepted as written.
3. Results from the July 23rd water quality sampling have arrived. Total phosphorus (TP) was 26µg/L and chlorophyll α was 0.008 mg. These are core sample results. Sewall Pond e-coli results from August 6th haven't been received yet. This bill will be paid for from the Alewife Fund. Susan and Karen will sample September 3rd and Noreen and Karen will sample September 17th.
4. Sewall Pond clean up schedule: Susan August 24th, Paul August 31st, Phine September 7th and Clarke September 14th.
5. Phine received a list of sea-level rise web links from the Island Institute intern and thinks we would be better served to visit them individually rather than as a group.
6. Sewall Pond Conservation Area: Rope swing management ideas such as: signage, fencing, continual removal of the rope or do nothing were discussed. Phine will ask the Select Board about the limits of the town's responsibility for the non-approved rope swing. Per Bob Ater there have only been a couple of nights when he has had to call the Sheriff's Department. There is some confusion about the language of the ordinance which is in the process of being clarified. Trail work and rockscaping will be scheduled at the September meeting. Many people have noticed the large number of cars parked on both the Old Stage Road and the Route 127 sides. The commission will continue to monitor the use and "over use" of the Sewall Pond accesses.
7. Water Access: John Wood and Phine visited the Georgetown Bridge MDOT Right-of-Way. Due to steep slopes, it was decided that there isn't an appropriate access on the south side within the right -of-way. The north side on the property formally owned by Annie Nodine, seems more appropriate even though it isn't within the right -of-way. Bob Ater is willing to initiate a preliminary conversation with the current owner and Phine will ask him to do so.
8. The Maine Tree Foundation has initiated a Shoreland Ordinance review meeting with the Planning Board and the Select Board regarding the timber harvesting language and performance standards of the ordinance. Phine will ask both the Planning Board and the Select Board to keep the Conservation Commission involved in any discussions going forward.
9. Nature's Notes: Paul has a lot of bats in residence, as many as 30 leaving at dusk and returning in the morning. Paul, Susan, and Noreen report having a lot of monarch butterfly larvae, so many that even some of the milk weed seed pods are skeletonized. Noreen has a resident tree frog in her raspberry bushes. Clarke found and took a picture of a spotted turtle walking across his path. Clarke also reported that the Holt Forest small mammal trapping this season is at a record breaking low,

with 280 traps set only 2-9 creatures were caught per trapping session. For comparison last year's numbers were very high with over 120 animals caught each session. Phine saw a cicada in her covered broccoli, and a mink at the Route 127 culvert, she also noted that water was still going out at the end of July. She also found the pine pollen so thick in Sewall Pond that it had the consistency of clay. It was also reported that Jack has game cameras out in the Holt Forest and has captured images of three fishers together and one otter.

10. Other: The Recycling Committee is hosting a DEP presentation on Zero Waste on September 30th at 6PM in the Fire Barn. Paul will invite the Conservation Consortium and Harpswell to attend. Other workshops that are happening include Invasion Forest Pests August 28th, Soil Health September 18th and MMA is offering a Climate Change workshop.
11. Other 2: Paul Perkins of the Climate Change Lobby contacted Phine to let her know that, since the Arrowsic's resolution passed at the last town meeting supports yet doesn't specifically endorse HR 1763, Arrowsic will not be listed on their web site as an EICDA Supporter.
12. Pictures Post: We are still waiting for MDOT's approval of the suggested Right-of-Way language.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35PM.
14. The next meeting will be September 17, 2019 at 5 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins
Acting Secretary