

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 17, 2021

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

1. The in-person meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM
2. The minutes of the July 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: July water quality test results were TP=23 ppb, chlorophyll α sample A= 0.008 μ mg, sample B=0.010 μ mg. Both sample A and B were core samples. The e-coli sample was rejected without a reason given.
4. Water Quality Monitoring: The monitoring schedule is Phine and Karen August 31rd, Susan and Karen September14th.
5. SPCAMP: A.) Litter patrol schedule: August 21st-Clarke, August 28th-Phine, September 4th-Paul. B.) The results of the parking survey were summarized. Phine added that she was at the pond on the afternoon of one of last week's very hot and humid days and found 20 cars parked on the Old Stage Rd. When she went for her swim, she saw a large group of people (adults with children- perhaps a "camp" or home-schooling group) swimming and gathering on the north rock, a couple of people just south of that group, no one at the old swing site, and a couple of people on the south rocks. Even though there were 20 cars on the road, she didn't experience the area as crowded and noted that everyone was respecting the brushed-out trails and revegetation signs. C.) Paul noted that some of the water bars need to be maintained.
6. Salt Water Access: Several "water front" properties are for sale in town. Their potential for use as town waterfront access points were discussed. Paul will check on the current status of the Coast Guard station.
7. November Field Trip: Phine will ask Jack Witham if he would be willing to lead a post-harvest trip of the Holt Forest on November 7th and talk about the deer exclosure study site. At this time, the possibility of public participation is unknown. We will continue to monitor the CDC COVID recommendations and make a determination closer to the date.
8. Commission Members: Susan has closed on her new home so will need to leave the Commission. The Commission expressed our gratitude for her contributions and best wishes on her new adventure. Several people identified as possible replacements will be asked if they are willing to have their names passed on to the Select Board.
9. Nature Notes: Phine reported Noreen's observations: Noreen has been watching turkeys stretching their necks to reach her choke cherries and has seen them hopping to get berries that are just out of reach. Jesse has noticed a lot of choke cherries this year as well. Additionally, she definitively identified a yellow-billed cuckoo in her woods. She used the audio feature of the Merlin App to do so. Clarke has also heard the cuckoo at the Holt Forest. Susan still has the "friendly" toads under her deck. Clarke reminded us that there will be king tides in October, November and

December. King tides, are tides that are higher than normal tides and typically occur during new or full moons and when the moon is simultaneously at its closest point of approach for the month (perigee). Paul reported that his resident owlets are becoming confident over their domain and related cautiously getting closer and closer to one of the barred owlets, until he was standing right underneath him. He was surprised that the owl didn't decamp, but wondered if it had become accustomed to his presence. He also reported a magnificence of black trumpet mushrooms in his woods. Phine reported her woods are equally prolific. Mona is drying some.

10. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 5:51 PM.
11. The next meeting will be September 21, 2021 at 5 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall if CDC recommendations allow and by Zoom if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary