

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
December 14, 2020

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

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:04PM
2. The minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: Bruce Zuwalick generously sent his annual contribution to the Conservation Commission. It will be added to the Alewife Fund. Phine will sent him a thank you.
4. The November field trip was enjoyed by everyone. Since the public wasn't allowed to attend due to COVID protocols, no Commission business was discussed nor acted on.
5. Picture Posts: Observations are coming in and the team of observers will be checking this week's astronomical tides. Clarke hasn't been able to connect with Paul Kalkstein re: linking the data to the Town website. He hopes to connect in the next month.
6. Water Access: Since our last meeting, Bob Ater has spoken to the property owner of the site on the west side of the island. Bob reports that the property owner has "cooled" to the idea and suggests that the Commission not pursue access at that location at this time. Susan shared a Maine State publication that talks about land owner rights and responsibilities when allowing public access to private property. Maine has some of the strongest landowner protection laws in the nation. It was suggested that the Commission have copies of the pamphlet on hand when initiating future conversations with property owners and the Select Board.
7. SPCAMP: Jim Stump was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Road Committee continues to be concerned that without appropriate enforcement the designation of parking spots will not provide the congestion relief intended. The Conservation Commission will write a letter to the Select Board articulating our assessment of the Conservation Area and the rationale for the 7 parking spots. Since the Conservation Commission doesn't have any enforcement authority, the ordinance language and enforcement can be implemented by a Board or Enforcement Officer that has enforcement authority. Content concepts for the educational signage were discussed There are many ways to approach this type of outreach. Members will brainstorm about topics before the next meeting. It was suggested that members try to walk the path to tickle their brains as to possible focus points. Karen D. will talk to sign vendors to determine availability and pricing.

8. It is anticipated that the next *Arrow* will be published in February. The focus of our work and current thinking about the Conservation Area might be a good topic to share with the public before next season. Phine will draft a short article.
9. Nature's Notes: It was unanimously agreed that sharing what we have seen the past month is always a highlight of the meeting. Jesse heard an unseasonal sound near the Squirrel Point trail. After ruling out every other possibility including wild turkey, free ranging clucking chickens, and her imagination, she was able to determine they were wood frogs. Phine and Karen heard spring peepers during the warm spells this past month. Paul had a large flock of evening grosbeaks at his bird feeder after not seeing them for many years. There were more males than females and they were especially vocal and assertive. Susan also had grosbeaks at her feeder. Noreen saw a Bald Eagle swooping down on her barn. She recently saw a blue heron, which is the latest in the season that she has seen one. Susan has seen winter moths hatching and flying and has blue birds at her feeder. Over Spinney Marsh she has seen red tail hawks and harriers.
10. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:05PM.
11. The next meeting will be January 19, 2021 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary