

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 19, 2021

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

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:06PM
2. The minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: No new mail.
4. The Georgetown Conservation Commission will be hosting a virtual meeting about NOAA's Marine Debris Program. Phine will send an announcement of the meeting to the Arrowsic Google Group.
5. SPCAMP: The draft letter to the Select Board was approved and Phine will send it on. Sukey expressed the concern that if parking does become restricted, that any authorizing ordinance have teeth and be enforced. She noted that historically without consistent enforcement, regulations aren't very effective. Jonathan (Maine Tree Foundation) reminded us that chips are available from the forestry operations on the Holt property and if the Commission anticipated any future need, he could ask the logger if there is a storage area at the log landing. The *Arrow* article was approved, Phine will finalize the last sentence after her meeting with the Select Board regarding the Conservation Area. Karen D wasn't able to connect with a sign maker to price possible signage. She will continue to work on getting an answer.
6. At 5:30 PM the Commission participated in the national moment of silence for COVID victims. The Commission extends its deepest condolences to those who have lost a friend or loved one.
7. Deer Enclosures: Enclosures were discussed as a way to study the impact of deer populations on the forest floor. Jack Witham is currently pursuing a grant to study deer foraging effects on oak regeneration in the Holt Forest. There may be a collaborative opportunity for the Commission. Phine will reach out to Jack.
8. Inter-committee communication: Phine noted that with all the Town's business being conducted virtually it is easier to participate in various meetings. There was a discussion of members trying to be present at other meetings and reporting back to the Commission.
9. Other: Phine was walking on Mill Island and noticed the west Picture Post post needs to be righted and that there was wrack on the causeway surface. Members believe it was from the recent storm event as the river was quite high even though it wasn't an astronomical high.
10. Nature's Notes: Noreen has chickadees that are sounding like phoebes and thinks it may be because of the unusual temperatures we have been having. Karen D. has noted that there is no snow pack and very little frozen ground and wonders what the impact to the ground water and wells in town. A discussion of drought conditions and educational opportunities ensued. Susan walked to Baldhead today and saw

three eagles and heard a fourth. She also found some hemlock wooly adelgid. Phine has a red-bellied woodpecker coming to her bird feeder. Karen D. saw a lot of deer and rabbit tracks after the snow storm. Many members noted that the rabbit population seems lower than 30 years ago.

11. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 5:59PM.
12. The next meeting will be February 16, 2021 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary