

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 18, 2022

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Paul Schlein, Priscilla Tucker, Karen Robbins, Angel Braestrup, Marnie Kalkstein, Michele Gaillard, Michael Kreindler, Kelly French-Maine Tree Foundation

1. Due to technical difficulties which continued for the duration of the meeting, the virtual meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM.
2. Members of the Commission and members of the public introduced themselves. Priscilla was warmly welcomed as the new official member of the Commission.
3. The minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
4. Mail: Bruce Zuwalick generously sent his annual contribution to the Conservation Commission. As in the past, it will be added to the Alewife Fund. Phine will send him a thank you.
5. Alewives: Because of COVID, last season's data collection was not as robust as in years past. Because of the lack of data and the lack of fish definitively observed, the Commission will, for conservation purposes, continue the closure to commercial harvest for the 2022 season. Karen will email DMR a letter notifying them of the decision to remain closed.
6. Picture Posts: There have been 2 storm events since the last meeting. Clarke reported that the volunteers documented the first event across town. Yesterday's event was only documented at the causeway. The Commission and volunteers will continue to monitor for storm events.
7. Stewardship Guide: Paul reminded the Commission that the Damariscotta River Association had reached out a number of years ago for guidance around publishing their own watershed Stewardship Guide. The project was placed on hold while several land trusts were combining and reconfiguring as the Midcoast Conservancy. He wonders if the ACC should reach out and re-offer our support. He will find out the person that would lead such a project at Midcoast and reach out to them.
8. Salt Water Access: A) Small Site Access - the Conservation Commission talked about how and which type of limited access residents might use. The Commission will continue to think about the specifics as many possible approaches were discussed. B) Range Light Keepers property – Paul reported that based on what the GSA told us in November, the property auction could still begin in February. He also noted, that in the past, some sites on the GSA website have had their auction extended. Michele asked if the ACC will be recommending the Town purchased the site. The ACC hopes to have enough information when the property is publicly published as available to be able to determine its value to the Town as waterfront access. The ACC will make a recommendation accordingly. C) Arrow Article: Commission members generally agree that each successive draft is getting better and more effective at communicating to residents the history of the charge, historical attempts and current

efforts of the Commission. The final version will be determined at the next meeting, as well as, the best distribution venue.

9. Nature Notes: Jesse reported in absentia that she saw the magnificent Stellers sea eagle while it was in Boothbay.



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Phine and Priscilla saw it early in its stay in Five Island. Priscilla also shared that a Frigate Bird was seen on Matinicus Island. Paul reported that there is a pack of coyotes singing very close to their house every night. He told the Commission about catching a vole in a Havahart trap inside his house, which is fairly unusual. Priscilla reported a lot of vole tunnels are being revealed as the rain melts her snow pack. Noreen reported hearing chickadee mating calls. Sewall Pond froze in a few days before Christmas and had 3 ½ inches of ice on December 24th.

10. Other: Karen Dowell has asked Paul Kalkstein to disable the Nature Notes Blog as it was being attacked by bots. It is currently disabled. It was decided to ask Paul to take it down entirely. Phine will ask Paul to update the ACC membership list on the web at the same time.
11. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:18PM.
12. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted. The next meeting will be February 15, 2022 at 5PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary