

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 20, 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 5:04 PM
2. The minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: June water quality test results were TP=18 ppb, chlorophyll α sample A= 0.003, sample B=0.004. Both sample A and B were core samples.
4. Water Quality Monitoring: The monitoring schedule is Phine and Karen August 3rd, Phine and Karen August 17th.
5. SPCAMP: A.) Litter patrol schedule: June 26-Phine, August 1st-Jesse, August 8th-Clarke, August 15th-Paul. B.) Graffiti: A little over a week ago orange graffiti was sprayed on trees, stones and ledge at the SPCA and the Maine Tree ledge north of the swimming area. Since the two recent storm events the graffiti has dulled significantly. The ACC has decided to monitor the situation anticipating further dulling of the lettering and hope no cover painting will be required. Phine has told Maine Tree about the graffiti on their property. Karen will report the incident to the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department so it is documented officially. Depending on the conversation with the Sheriff's department, the ACC may contact the local school administration implicated as well. C.) Signage: Phine reports that the signage and brush piles placed this spring are still in place and seem to be effective as there is some green vegetation growing along the closed off paths and among the brush. Per a conversation with Jack Witham, the ACC has decided to brush out the path to the Holt Forest Ledge and leave it to Maine Tree to post their property as they chose. Phine priced a laminated sign from Staples and estimates an entry sign would be approximately \$20.00. Since the current signage seems to be working it was decided to table any additional signage until the need arises. D.) Parking: Since there are some reports of continued "parking problems" on the Old Stage Rd, the ACC will do a parking survey for a week in order to have data instead of anecdotes.
6. Commission Members: Several members are going through life changes that may impact their participation on the Commission; the ACC talked about the makeup of the Commission as articulated in the enabling ordinance and the functional needs of the Commission and its Commissioners.
7. Nature Notes: Noreen told Phine her observations: the static level of their well is up three feet from its pre-rain event(s) level of two weeks ago. She got her first Japanese beetle today and her raspberries are almost ripe. Many members reported having had Japanese beetles for several weeks and that there has been a mushroom eruption since this weekend's rain, many different species and lots of each (high richness and abundance). Jesse reported that her fox took her rooster, luckily her noisy intimidation got the fox to release the rooster unharmed. Her swamp verbena



has lots of pollinators and Monarchs. She has also seen a lot of hummingbirds around at dusk. While kayaking the Back River, Phine has noticed that the trees from Mill Island to the IF & W land are struggling. The crowns are gray and/or defoliated. She has heard that the oaks are struggling with an oak leaf roller weevil infestation. She also apologized for her barely late arrival as she had to wait for six turkey poults sauntering down her driveway before she could get out. Paul has a pair of barred owl owlets hanging out at his house and was able to get a good picture of them.



He is also on a quest to determine the elusive bird with a very distinct song that has been at his house for several years and still not shown itself. Susan has been watching the adult birds at her feeder teach the young-

of-the-year to fend for themselves. She has noticed that avian parents have some of the same challenges as *Homo sapiens* parental units. She has a couple of toads under her porch that hang out together which is somewhat unusual, as in general, toads are solitary except at spring breeding events.

8. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:50 PM.
9. The next meeting will be August 17, 2021 at 5 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary