

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 21, 2020

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Jesse McMahan, Paul Schlein, Karen Dowell, Karen Robbins, Stanley Lane (Planning Board), Jack Witham (Holt Research Forest)

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:07PM
2. The minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as written.
3. The minutes of the June 30, 2020 Sewall Pond Conservation Area site visit were unanimously accepted as written.
4. Sewall Pond Conservation Area: Jack summarized his research into how to determine recreational carrying capacity of particular parcels. Some considerations are ecological impacts, public services available, and user enjoyment. Jack thinks determining the appropriate number of people on the shoreline at any one time might be a good starting point for the conversation. He offered to be a part of any continuing conversation going forward. The Commission has identified three areas that are ledge or hardened surfaces that could be used for shoreline use. Educational signage was considered and cost estimated to be less than \$1,000 based the recent signage installed at the Holt Research Forest. Since the pond and water shed connect the Town's Conservation Area and the Route 127 access point, the impact of any decisions on the Route 127 access point need to be considered. The Commission will continue to think about how many people(vehicles) can be supported at any time by the Conservation Area.
5. Water Access: Bob Ater reported to Phine that the owner of the parcel on the east side of the island is ready to move the conversation to the next level. Phine will talk to the Select Board about this opportunity and mention the importance of respecting abutters concerns.
6. Pumping from Sewall Pond: Phine learned from the DEP that 400 trips/week by a 7,500-gallon tanker truck is acceptable without DEP notification. Another measure of the standard is a drawdown of ¼ inch of water depth per week is acceptable. Paul has spoken to the Pesticide Board about the observed pumping into pesticide tanks. He is expecting a "letter of explanation" in the coming days. DEP suggests that the town could enact an ordinance that is more restrictive than state rules. It was also suggested that if the Town required registration before pumping there would be good compliance as there are very few ponds to pump from in the midcoast area and operators would not want to lose the privilege.
7. Mail: The water quality results for May and June arrived as well as the invoice. Phine will ask to have the bills paid from the designated Alewife Account. The results are as follows- May, total phosphorus (TP) 21 ppb and chlorophyll α 0.008mg/l; June TP 28 ppb and chlorophyll α 0.012 mg/l.
8. Water Quality Schedule: July 28 Jesse and Karen; August 11 Phine and Karen. Clean up schedule: July 25 Clarke, August 1 Phine.

9. Nature's Notes: Paul has seen his first monarch butterflies and humming bird moth of the season. He has come to understand he is only a guest at his house as he has seen at least 20 bats leaving the eaves of the house in the evening. A resident on the Baldhead Rd took a picture of a shad that had fallen out of a predator's grip on to the road. The dichotomous dorsal spots were clearly visible in the photograph. Susan has seen the second brood of bluebirds, phoebes and chipping sparrows at her house. She also saw a snapping turtle hide itself under the leaves for a night. Clarke has set out 500 seed oysters and now begins the two year wait for them grow to harvestable size. Jesse and Paul report seeing the most frogs and toads this year of all the years in their memory. Karen D reports that two fawns and a doe bed down each night under her highbush blueberries and that lots of birds have been checking out the ripening berries.
10. Other: The "Nature's Notes" blog team are looking into different platforms as the current one being used is too onerous. All the picture posts have been installed.
11. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:47PM.
12. The next meeting will be August18, 2020 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary