

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

June 16, 2020

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Jesse McMahan, Paul Schlein, Karen Dowell, Karen Robbins, Bob Ater, Malcolm Persen, Joe Bonnet

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:07PM
2. The minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as written. Karen explained for people new to the meeting, that the Commission doesn't like to minute any identifying information about parcels that are being considered for water front access. This is out of respect for property owner privacy and gratitude for their participation in the conversation. It was also noted that if any commitment can be made, the specific proposal will be brought to the Town Meeting as a whole to decide.
3. Mail: Phine stopped by the Town Hall this morning and our mail box was empty.
4. Water Access: Bob Ater reported meeting with both property owners about carry on access at their respective sites. They seemed to welcome the conversation. Several considerations were discussed such as who would maintain cleanliness and civility, and whether the access can be limited to residents only. Who would own the property has not been specifically discussed yet; Bob thinks they would be open to various ownership configurations knowing good stewardship is important to them and the Commission.
5. Patrolling and Maintaining Properties Used by the Public: Malcolm Persen (chair of the Properties Management Committee) spoke about the 10-year plan they gave to the Select Board. Among the identified priorities, is to assess the excess properties owned by the town and consider what to do with them going forward. He wonders if that priority might be fast tracked and if any properties were to be sold the money could be used to support the Water Access initiative. He also offered the Management Committee's willingness to support the Conservation Commission in any way appropriate and wanted the Commission to know they are willing to have a conversation about ways the two bodies can work together going forward.
6. Sewall Pond: Water Quality Testing Schedule: June 30 Susan and Karen, July 14 Phine and Karen. Because people are continuing to swim in the pond from the Route 127 side, e-coli testing will be done July 14. Parking at the Conservation Area was discussed. Solution options ranged from \$35 to a \$10,000. Phine reminded the Commission that the Holt Foundation was originally thinking that all parking would be off street. Even though the Holt Foundation is now owned by the Maine Tree Foundation, the deed commitment carries forward to it heirs and/or assignees. Phine will speak to the Road Commission, the Select Board and Jack to schedule a site visit at a mutually convenient time in the beginning of July. The ACC talked about the over usage of the property in general and in the specific: litter, fires, rope swings, tree cutting, after hour usage, parking and trespassing on abutters property. Paul and Phine will check with other towns in the Conservation Consortium to see how they have successfully managed their properties. Karen Dowell will try "Magic Eraser" on

the sign graffiti. The frequent commercial pumping of water from the Pond was discussed. As an abutter, Bob Ater reported that pumping is happening several times a week if not every other day. His memory of the past is that it only happened a couple times of year. Phine has contacted DEP to get answers to several questions and has yet to hear back from the contact person. The questions about volume and frequency of pumping, accumulative effect of heavy commercial pumping, pond contamination during priming or back washing operations, and can the town have more restrictive regulations than the state statute allows were discussed. Joe Bonnett (Arrowsic Fire Department) reports that there is often contamination during pump priming operations. He also reminded the Commission that the Fire Department needs to maintain the pond water level as a fire suppression asset and hoped that if any actions were taken to protect the water level in Sewall Pond those protections would be extended to all ponds in Arrowsic.

7. Alewife Restoration Project: Susan walked Sewall Creek and found two beaver installed barriers to passage. Phine, Susan and Karen deconstructed the two dams. Today after water sampling, Susan and Karen removed the newly reconstructed upstream dam. It was decided to include stream inspection with the bi-weekly water quality schedule. Susan will check the stream next week as well. A couple of downed trees that are in the stream cross-wise may need to have a channel cut through them.
8. There will be a KELT turtle talk June 25 at 6PM.
9. Nature's Notes Blog: Karen D and Paul have enough submissions and ideas for many more blogs and are wrestling the platform so as to make it easier and less time consuming for the administrators. Currently, comments can be made directly to the blog and images should go to Karen and Paul directly.
10. Nature's Notes: Noreen has noticed that the red clover is bigger and covers more area this year. And of course, the bees are loving it. Jesse has noticed that the perennials are more robust this year. Phine saw 3 or 4 brown-tail moth larvae at her house which was a bit disappointing as she didn't see any last year. Paul has a downy wood pecker family about 30 ft up in an oak. He had originally wondered if the chirping of the young inside the stem of the oak was insects. He also has a juvie barred owl curiously visiting him on his deck every day. After hearing a scarlet tanager the past several seasons, he finally saw it in his bird bath. He reports the intensity of the red was awe inspiring. Susan's blue birds are feeding their young meal worms on her deck, the hairy woodpecker is feeding its young at the suet feeder and the 2 ground hogs are now 5. Phine saw a sign "woodchucks wanted" and wondered-what for. Noreen said that a fox got her woodchuck and several of her chickens. Many have noticed the dearth of mosquitos and black flies and have assumed it is due to the lack of rain. Dragon flies are out and Karen D has a snake nest in her wood pile and a turkey with 8 poults or turkeylings as they are called. Phine reported that Nature's Notes always make her smile-even under her face covering.
11. Picture Posts: No updates at this time.
12. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:42PM.
13. The next meeting will be July 21, 2020 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary

Arrowsic Conservation Commission Minutes  
Site Visit Sewall Pond Conservation Area  
June 30, 2020

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Jesse McMahan, Paul Schlein, Karen Dowell, Karen Robbins, Bob Ater(Abutter), Jack Witham (Holt Research Forest/Maine Tree Foundation), Jonathan LaBonte (Maine Tree Foundation), Sukey Heard (Select Board), DeeDee Jorgensen(Select Board), Roger Heard (Planning Board), Matt Caras (Planning Board), Jim Stump (Road Commission), Tim Harkins (Abutter), Karin Sadtler (Arrowsic Arrow)

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:05PM and was conducted at the entrance to the Conservation Area.
2. Phine asked every one to state their name for the meet and greet, as some people were new to each other and all were hidden behind their face coverings.
3. Jack summarized the history of Bill Holt's experience managing the property and some of the Holt's background thinking that led to the creation of the Conservation Area. Generally, the Holt's didn't find their efforts well respected by historical users of the pond access path. The deeded agreement between the Town and the Holt Foundation or its assignees-now the Maine Tree Foundation has an off-street parking area clause and a reversion clause if the Town doesn't perform its agreed functions. The parking area clause doesn't have specifics or performance standards articulated.
4. Possible parking locations were identified; a) street side, b) perpendicular to the traveled way, c) construct a new parking area, d) park in the Tree Foundation overflow area. Parking in the Tree Foundation overflow area was ruled out as they do not want to give the public the impression that the public is invited into the research area. Jim Stump reminded everyone that parking along the Old Stage Rd is not prohibited except where the roadway abuts the Holt Research Forest.
5. Challenges and methods of enforcing parking rules were discussed. Sukey reported that the current Parking Ordinance allows for a \$250.00 fine. A number of people commented that the Sherriff's Department has been doing a good job enforcing the COVID-19 closure. Towing is a possibility as stated on the existing signage; DeeDee reported that would require a contract with a towing company. It was asked if resident and non-resident parking permits could be a method to control parking and usage of the Conservation Area. Several people reported that this method is used often in municipalities in southern Maine. Tim Harkins reminded us that if there is a strong outreach and educational communication regarding whatever the ultimate parking solution is, more people will understand the need, and comply.

6. The ACC will determine the reasonable carrying capacity for the shorefront and Conservation Area as a whole. And then estimate how that correlates to the number of parking spaces to be provided. After determining the number of parking spots, the ACC will propose a parking configuration that best meets the needs identified.
7. The site visit was adjourned at 5:37PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary