

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 17, 2020

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Jesse McMahan, Karen Dowel, Karen Robbins

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:10PM after learning how to activate the internet conferencing platform used in order to conform to the recommended COVID-19 physical distancing protocols.
2. The minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting were accepted as written.
3. Mail: Phine stopped by the Town Hall this afternoon and our mail box was empty.
4. Phine will send our Annual Report to Sheila to incorporate into the Town's Annual Report.
5. Karen gave a brief summary of this year Fisherman's Forum.
6. Alewife Restoration Project: Ice is out (Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>) and typically the monitoring trap is set shortly thereafter. Because the State, and our volunteers, are dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak, when the trap will be set will be based on the return of the osprey, alewives and volunteer staffing capabilities. As there are no further reporting requirements, if some fish are missed at the start of the season it will not impact our commitments.
7. Road Clean Up Day will not be conducted this year as a town. Phine will send out a notice to the Town encouraging residents to pick up litter near their section of road between April 24-May 8<sup>th</sup> and ask that large items such as tires be left at the Town Hall. She will ask the Solid Waste Committee to co-ordinate the pickup of those items.
8. Jack has decided to make the "meet/no meet" decision about the Holt Forest Talk closer to the scheduled time of the meeting. He hopes to have more information to base the decision on at that time.
9. Phine did some historical research on current residents versus residents living here during the Comprehensive Plan creation. Comparing property owners: 1991-260 property owners, 2019-294 property owners with only 85 property owners common to both groups, which is another way of saying that only 29% of current owners had a say in the existing Comprehensive Plan. Phine will ask the Select Board to convene a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. Commission members were asked to consider serving on the Review Committee.
10. Other: Solar Equipment Rebate: It is reported that every house in town with solar equipment has it evaluated at \$20,000. The rebate form is available on the Town website and due to the Assessor by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year residents ask for a rebate.
11. Picture Post Project: Permission for the Rte. 127 posts has been granted. During the last hightide/storm event, pictures were taken at the posts installed on town roads. Only the Mill Island causeway was impassable. The next astronomical tides are in April; the highest at night.
12. Nature's Notes: Jesse has seen a butterfly. Susan saw a woodcock in her field. There have been many yellow-shafted flickers around. Red-winged black birds were

seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February. The long and melodic voice of the winter wren has been heard by several people.

13. The meeting adjourned at 5:56PM.
14. The next meeting will be April 21, 2020 at 5 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall. If social distancing protocols need to be maintained in April, Phine will send an announcement to Town residents about how to connect with the meeting on-line in real time.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary