

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 21, 2023

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Karen Robbins, Priscilla Tucker, Clarke Cooper, Carla Weeks, Jessie Nankin McMahon, Jenna Howard

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Phine at 5:00 PM.

1. **Minutes:** Jenna will share meeting minutes later this month. The Commission will vote on February and March minutes at the next meeting.
2. **Mail:** The ACC received an invitation to this Saturday's Alewives of Maine meeting, which had been rescheduled.
3. **Budget:** Phine revised the ACC budget request to \$500, over \$100 above the water sampling costs. As the ACC is over budget for this FY, it was considered to move the recent \$25 donation from alewife fund back to our budget. The water testing lab sent all bills in this fiscal year, including for May and June of the previous year. Out of due diligence, we'd like to stay above budget. This year on a one time basis, it will go toward the general fund. The commission voted unanimously to approve this.
4. **Roadside clean up: 9:30 a.m. April 29 with a rain date of April 30.** We will put out an official town notice in 1 week and then send out reminders. We will also put out the physical sandwich board a week ahead of time. Town hall provides garbage bags.
5. **Trail work:** The Commission will spread wood chips and put signs back out. For Earth Day, we could try to get others out to help us. We will plan to meet Saturday afternoon at 2pm on April 22nd, with a rain date of April 23rd at 2pm. We may have wildflower seed balls to have everyone go home with. Jesse will make a list of supplies we need.
6. **Alewives:** Arrowsic will celebrate its first harvest the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 13: starting at 9am and ending around noon. Alewives will be dipnetted out of the trap, and we will alternate between harvesting the fish and letting them go in the pond, up until a maximum of 720 fish are harvested. Jesse suggests a road sign is needed. Perhaps a resident who is part of the fire department could help with traffic control. 6-12 alewives may go to every household in attendance.
7. **Climate Resilience:** March 30 is our next meeting. For climate-related transportation improvements and grants planning: Karen attended a virtual meeting with Region 2 MDOT Planner regarding potential funding sources. The speaker was a planner who suggested sharing a community vision and working to help identify which initiative might be most applicable for funding. There are a few options: an *Active Transportation Plan* is a 20 year long term plan which creates a family of modal plans: biking, walking, sailboating. It offers \$1-2m per year to help towns with access to waterways. They also gave the example of an infrastructure improvement on Schoodic peninsula that has similar summer traffic patterns along a single central road. This showed how to complete infrastructure goals within a scope of cost from 250,000-300,000 with 80%/20% federal/state match,

with state 10% funds, 10% local match that can be in-kind. Gabe pointed out that if 2+ communities partner, then \$125,000 could be available. Karen provided Steve Cole's information for the Grants Subcommittee.

8. **Water Access:** Mike and Michele joined our meeting. Their committee met over a period of a several weeks to develop a rubric for assessing potential water access locations. This evaluation isn't set in stone; and they attended our meeting to get feedback (listed below). The commission discussed moving forward and will ask Chris Wilcoxson to rate each property based on the rubric we have. Jenna reported ACC notes to Mike and Michele:

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The Arrowsic Conservation Commission met on Tuesday 2/21 and considered a potential rubric for the Water Access Committee. Members showed support for the standards noted but had questions about the differing weights of the criteria and felt that each criteria was of importance; Members see the categories to be of equal weight. There were reservations about allowing a single '0' vote to derail a potential project. Rather, the commission felt a '0' on the rubric should impact the total score by lowering it. Members questioned whether the rubric would be helpful if only a single property was being considered. Could a single property attain a baseline score or a threshold score that could make it viable?

Legal/Regulatory Standing

*0 – not available and not*

*permissible*

*5 – available in a timely fashion*

Question from ACC member:

"Is there anything that discusses potential available to develop reasonable infrastructure?"

Impact to Neighborhood

*Can the concerns of the neighborhood be considered and addressed?*

*0 –not at all*

*5 – yes*

Water Access Quality

*0 –landlocked*

*5 – all tides, all boats*

Road Access and Infrastructure

*0 – no access by road*

*5 –good public access with good parking: seasonal dock, float permissible*

Cost

*0 – costs of development exceed all funding sources*

*5 –gifted to town without encumbrances*

Question from ACC member:

"We know what is in the coffer—so this scale would answer: is it substantially on budget or over budget? If so, how much and could the community make an investment beyond the town's budget?"

9. **Nature notes:** Jesse saw blue birds back! A pileated woodpecker or porcupine is working on Jenna's trees. A fisher cat was reported on her road. For Sewall Pond, usually we wait until calling ice out until the area is open past Mrs. MacKenzie's home and south. Clarke reports a raccoon last night, playing with a broom outside. Priscilla's nature note is from another state: she was recently in Tucson, Arizona resting on a rock; heard a strong hoot, 4-5 notes, in a row. There was a roadrunner!  
The meeting adjourned at 6:45.