

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 19, 2020

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

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:07PM
2. The minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting were accepted as written.
3. Mail: Phine stopped by the Town Hall this morning and our mail box was empty.
4. Sukey has contacted Phine and told her the Select Board has decided not to deal with the Comprehensive Plan because they are task saturated with the broad band expansion project.
5. Water Access: Phine had a conversation with Bob Ater and he will speak to one of the property owners identified last fall. Karen Robbins will speak with a property manager of another of the identified properties.
6. Picture Post Project: Four posts still need to be installed and will happen fairly soon. A summary of the project asking for volunteers was added to the Conservation Commission web site.
7. Alewife Restoration Project: Susan, Phine and Karen have been checking on the fish run. Many piscivorous species (great blue heron, osprey, and eagles) have been seen fishing the stream and pond. No alewives have been seen by the human observers. This is causing a lot of speculation. Susan will check the creek for any obstructions.
8. Water Sampling Schedule: Phine and Karen June 2, Susan and Karen June 16
9. Sewall Pond Clean-up Schedule: Phine May 23, Susan May 30, Paul Schlein June 6, Clarke June 13. Karen Dowell and Jesse will draft a COVID reminder to post at the public access points to Sewall Pond. It was also suggested that patrollers use a trash grabber to pick up the litter and patrol early Monday mornings to make maintaining social distancing protocols easier.
10. Nature's Notes Blog: Karen D and Paul have enough submissions and ideas for many more blogs and are planning on using the comments that residents post to segue into the next posting. It was noted that public commenters aren't able to add their own photographs.
11. Nature's Notes: Noreen has seen a garter snake and toads in her garden. She has also seen many "confusing warblers" which she would be able to identify if only they would come down lower in the canopy. Noreen wondered if anyone was feeling the low frequency vibrations that result from the comet that is passing very close to the earth this week. Apparently, animals can sense the vibrations. Chipping sparrows, bluebirds, phoebes and catbirds are some of the many species Susan has nesting near her house. She has also heard 8 different warblers, black birds and reminds everyone to be mindful of the turtles that will be near the road because of their nesting the next few weeks. Jesse has a phoebe that has built an impressively tall nest at her house. Paul had the first rose breasted grosbeak that he has seen in years at his feeder. Several people noted the lack of brown-tail moth nests and caterpillars. Humming birds are back although, many thought they were later than in the past.

Karen D. got a great picture of a pileated woodpecker and had a hairy woodpecker create a very large hole on the side of her house. She has also noted many eagles and osprey on the Back River.

12. The meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

13. The next meeting will be June 16, 2020 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary