

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 16, 2023

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

The meeting, held in person, was called to order by Phine at 5:33 PM.

**Minutes:** Jenna will send around April Minutes to approve by email.

**Trail work:** 13 wonderful women and a little boy did trail work!

**Roadside Clean Up:** The event was a success with many hands on deck. Only a couple of sections that volunteers didn't have time to finish. Recycling committee helped sort the recycling collected.

**Celebratory Alewife Harvest:** Great harvest! Nearly full allotment. 5.5 bushel. 5 bushel went to local fishermen. The rest went home for smoking, gardening. New people got to get involved. Muskrat, great blue herons, a snapping turtle, and a sea-run trout were spotted during the harvest. Clarke and Karen installed the data loggers from Manomet to track temps at the pond outlet of culvert to Spinney Creek to correlate. There is one in the pond near where the trap had been, one just below the culvert, and one at the end of Spinney Creek. We have decided to also sample zooplankton. New England River Herring Collaborative will take data from many different locations. The trap went in on April 26. This could be the 4<sup>th</sup> best year, Karen estimates. It is noted that the runs last from 20-52 days over the last few years.

**Water access:** Bob Ater and Phine went to the selectboard meeting about Packard Property. Selectman Walter Briggs suggested that we take a straw poll vote on pursuing the Indian Rest water access, to which proposal Bob and Phine agreed. The Commission discussed taking a straw poll vote at town meeting. Karen, Bob, Phine met with Malcom Persen about what the Properties Committee would have to say. Hearing about the property before the town meeting with an official town notice would be the next step. Phine will make changes and send to all of us and water access planning committee for the town notice. Priscilla will take a photograph to share.

**Resilience Grants:** Our group will review the climate change plan next week. Grants subcommittee looking into grants for transportation infrastructure. An intern has been hired who will be completing the community handbook with our climate plan and with tips.

**Water Quality and Litter Patrol:** Phine will test the 30<sup>th</sup> and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June Priscilla will.

**Conservation Commission Collation:** Phine will put a feeler out for later this summer or fall with Phippsburg, Georgetown, Westport Island.

**New Sign for Sewall Pond Conservation Area:** May water testing. Carla will do a "Don't Park in

Front of Gate” sign. Phine will get a new reflective sign for the “Dusk til Dawn” sign.

**Nature Notes:** Priscilla saw two small mammals in the road; shrews. Short tail shrew and and cinnamon-colored masked shrew and noted foxes sunning in a nearby sunny spot, too. Phine smelled citronella ants while gardening. Carla knows a local family of active bluebirds and Jesse notes a larger population of them this year. Carla saw a fight between robins and bluebirds. Clark heard a 2:00 am whippoorwill. Merlin app records sounds; lots of range expansion. Phine notes Cedarwaxwing eating up all elderberries. Karen sees garter snakes. Jenna notes multiple barred owls around Bald Head Rd.

Adjourn at 6:50.