

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 20, 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 5:05PM
2. The minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended. In an effort to expedite the meeting, it was decided that going forward the minutes will be distributed to members before the meeting.
3. Mail: Water quality results were received sans total phosphorus (TP) for August 25<sup>th</sup>. Phine suspects that VLMP has the results since they paid for the test. She will ask them for the results.
4. Water quality results received, September 22 results are TP = 26 ppb, chlorophyll  $\alpha$  = 0.0015. Phine also plotted out the secchi depths, DO and available TP readings for the season. She has also confirmed that we will be able to piggy back a sediment TP sample with UMaine at no cost to the town. The sampling date hasn't been scheduled yet.
5. Water Access: Since our last meeting, the property owner of the east site has withdrawn his offer to allow the town access across his property. Phine will draft a note thanking him for his thoughtful consideration of the proposal. The Commission may want to revisit the northern access site identified several years ago.
6. Picture Posts: Jesse and Clarke reported that the first fully staffed data collection went well even though the tide didn't top the road at any of the sites. They are expecting the team to collect data during the November high tides and then again in the spring. Clarke will update the Commission web site to include information about the Picture Post Project.
7. Fall Field Trip: The November meeting/field trip will be Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 9:30 AM at the Karhl's gate on Baldhead Rd or Jesse's driveway, a short walk away. Because of COVID protocols this year's walk won't be opened to the public; the Commission looks forward to reopening future walks to others as soon as it is safe.
8. The Holt Forest timber harvest may have some chips available for the Conservation Area paths. The Commission decided to regretfully decline at this time. Jesse will let Jonathan know.
9. SPCAMP: Phine provided the current parking ordinance to all members and reminded members that there are actually 4 "harden swimming/gathering" spots at the pond's edge. After a brief discussion it was decided to increase the parking to seven spots with a bike rack of yet to be determined size. Phine will ask the Road Commission for their input into parking ordinance language and expanding the shoulders as well as ask Jim Stump to attend the December meeting. Karen Dowell will draft the interpretive outreach sign language for review.
10. Nature's Notes Blog: Karen D, Jesse and Paul continue to work on it and don't have any action items for the Commission as a whole at this time.

11. Nature's Notes: Noreen has had dozens and dozens of migrating birds eating off the Queen Anne's lace heads. Phine reported a song bird eruption- warblers, redstarts, parulas, juncos-her field was teeming with birds. Susan has heard ornithologists projecting this year will be a big year for finch/pine siskin eruptions. Karen D asked if there were any local reports of birds dying and falling out of the sky similar to what is happening in some western states. One of the theories is that the fires and drought have created smoke and heat and the birds have been pushed out of their forage habitat. Paul reports learning from his 10 chipmunks something he didn't know before; they will close off the first entrance into their tunnel system after the system is created. They do this with some fairly large stones and even when Paul raked them away, they put them back in short order. Susan noted that the osprey on the Max Wilder Bridge stayed the entire season (until the beginning of October) even though the repaving was going on below them for the last two months. She has bluebirds eating at her birdfeeder and inspecting the bird houses and a very assertive porcupine roaming the landscape. Phine noted that this year she had a very early frost, even though it wasn't a killing frost it was more than 3 weeks earlier than her historic first of the season which is usually around Indigenous People's Day. Clarke saw a fisher in the middle of the day near the Karhl property and Jesse saw a belted king fisher today.
12. Other: Paul reported that the Recycling Committee has an opening.
13. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:32PM.
14. The next meeting will be December 15, 2020 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary