

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 19, 2021

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Jesse McMahon, Clarke Cooper, Paul Schlein, Jody Jones, Michele Gaillard, Karen Robbins

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM
2. The minutes of the September 21, 2021 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
3. Mail: Phine checked, as of today there wasn't any mail.
4. Water Quality: September water quality test results were TP=30 ppb, chlorophyll  $\alpha$  core sample = 0.010 mg/L. It was noted that there was a scummy algae bloom occurring on October 12<sup>th</sup> and the Secchi disk was visible only to a depth of less than 1 meter.
5. SPCAMP: More brushing in of unauthorized trails was done on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. The revegetation signs were taken down for refurbishing over the winter. It was noted that another application of chips to the trail will need to be done in the spring.
6. November Field Trip: On November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM Jack Witham will show case the Holt Forest Deer Exclosure Study. Because of COVID and social distancing recommendations, it was decided to limit the field trip to Commission members again this year.
7. Comprehensive Plan Pre-Planning Committee: Jody Jones and Michele Gaillard reported on the progress of the Pre-Planning Committee. They are in the process of meeting with each of the standing committees in town to determine what each committee has for planning priorities or needs from the Comprehensive Plan. They are trying to gauge the time and energy committees and individual people have to commit to the process, so they can make a realistic recommendation to the Select Board. They have also found a new state funding source for municipalities to develop Climate Change Resiliency Plans and are trying to determine the town's interest in pursuing that in tandem with or instead of the Comprehensive Plan. Harpswell, Phippsburg and West Bath were towns that participated in the pilot program. Phine will reach out to her Commission counter parts to find out about the process, what they hoped to accomplish and if they feel it was successful. The Conservation Commission appreciates how much time commitment and financial resources are needed to develop a complete and up to date plan. On average, Commission members think a Comprehensive Plan and a Climate Change Resiliency Plan are interconnected and both important for the Town to have in order to guide decisions and policies going forward. The Pre-Planning Committee will divide the State provided planning check list into focus areas and ask each committee if they are prepared to provide the support to complete the identified section(s). Funding of the Plan creation was discussed and which tasks would need outside professional assistance. It was noted that a lot of the necessary skills are residing in town and creating temporary stipended positions may be a cost-effective way to create the

Plan locally. The Commission thanked the Pre-Planning Committee for all the work they have done to move the project forward.

8. Picture Posts: The October king tide was lightly monitored and relatively uneventful. The next two tides are expected to be more dramatic. It is expected that a tide gauge will be installed at the Mill Island monitoring location by the next king tide.
9. Commission Members: Possible replacements continue to be discussed.
10. Nature Notes: Phine reported Noreen's observations: Noreen has watched her garden cosmos change color from white early in the season to dark pink toward the end of the season. She has a raft (AKA flock) of 13 turkeys visiting her regularly. And her vegetables are really tall this year; the basil is 4 feet tall. No one has had a frost yet, not even a light one. Clarke reported that the marsh bank near his house collapsed recently. Possible causes, such as wave action or green crab burrowing were discussed. Jesse's barred owl is still very vocal especially as a 5 AM wake up call. Paul is still collecting mushrooms. This year he has seen the greatest number of different varieties in Arrowsic ever, even in his door yard. He is getting multiple pounds of each. He collected a 25-plus pound Hen-of-the-Woods off an oak tree. He noted that is often a sign that the tree is almost dead. Phine has been smelling the stink horns during her walks on the Old Stage Rd. She has noticed the location of the smell shifts each time.
11. Other: It was noted that we haven't heard anything more about the graffiti at the SPCA.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18PM.
13. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted. The next meeting will be December 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary