

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 18, 2022

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Jenna Howard, Karen Robbins, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Karin Sadtler, Angel Braestrup joined as a guest

The meeting, held on Zoom, was called to order by Phine at 5:30 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of September meetings were formally accepted.

Community Resilience: There was a meeting with Maine DOT and DMR. It was not specific what the projects would be in Arrowsic. Ernie Martin would be the person to contact to help plan the projects. Karen noted their wave, storm surge, simulations would help determine high and low vulnerability areas.

Phine connected with Dennis in Westport Island about sea level rise modeling. Karen would like Ken to help us determine questions for whether we should work with them. He knows what we're hoping to get out of such a study. Angel asks: Given Westport's location, how much overlap is there? Would a partial joint study make sense given our geology is similar? Karen and Phine will reach out to Ken to formulate questions.

Alewife Committee Draft Ordinance: Mike joins. Angel and Mike present. Karen reported that the Alewife Subcommittee, Jeff Pinette, Mark Spaulding, Jack Witham, Angel Braestrup, Mike McMahon and herself has met four times since June. The committee decided since a) the Alewife Restoration Project initiated in 2006 has restored the run to a sustainably healthy condition such that the state will allow a provisional commercial harvest if the town so chooses and b) because the Conservation Commission has so many other projects going, to recommend a commission that focuses on the fishery.

To that end, the subcommittee has written an ordinance that enables a stand alone Fish Commission and charges it with monitoring and managing Arrowsic's river herring fishery for the health of the resource, its ecosystem, the residents of Arrowsic, and commercial fisherman.

The Conservation Commission reviewed the ordinance and approved it with a minor change. The amended draft ordinance is attached. It was decided that Karen and Phine would bring the draft Arrowsic Fish Commission ordinance to the Select Board and request that it be included on the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Jesse and Mike will join the Select Board meeting in support of the action.

Water Quality Report: July's Phosphorus was 29 micrograms per liter; Chlorophyll count was 0.012 mg/L. E Coli 1mg/L. Salinity .53% which has inched up over the last few years. Phine waiting to hear back on Chlorophyll. The secchi disc hit bottom during the water clarity test despite the recent rainfall.

Sewall Pond Conservation Area: Phine asked Walter if before we write an ordinance we have confirmation from the Sheriff office about enforcement. Karen asks if we are authorized as a group to deal with parking requirements, enforcement. Managing the resources are in our purview, but managing resources is not. We've determined the SPCA can, at any time, handle the number of people in seven cars. We've made a parking plan but it didn't work perfectly as we didn't have cars towed. So, it might need to be reworked. We could put it into practice around mid-June. The comprehensive plan says the ACC should develop a management plan covering permitted use, vehicle access, and parking.

For the Arrow: We have two articles in the Arrow. We will invite others to join us for our November field trip.

November Field Trip: Phine and Karen went to Bufflehead recently. They walked the area between the marsh and Bald Head Road. We could experiment with iNaturalist during a walk there with a larger group. The plan will be to meet at 9:30am at the Indian Rest Road and Bald Head Road intersection.

New Member: Having geographic diversity would be great. We could put out a notice or weekly newsletter or Google group. Jesse will write our invitation for the role. Swearing In: Jenna will get sworn in this week.

Nature Notes: Karen heard peepers last night. Jesse had a monarch come through. Clark reports changing of spider guards. We had the first frost on Indigenous People's Day Weekend, not a killing frost. Phine reports more yellow rumped warblers in October than ever.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenna Howard