

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 15, 2020

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Jesse McMahan, Paul Schlein, Karen Dowell, Karen Robbins, Jonathan La Bonte (Maine Tree Foundation), Barrie Brusila (Maine Tree Foundation), Dee Dee Jorgensen (Select Board)

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:00PM.
2. Jonathan La Bonte, Executive Director Maine Tree Foundation-Holt Research Forest reviewed the priorities of the Foundation: education, forest research and outreach to surrounding communities. He invited everyone to participate in next Thursday's webinar about the history of the Holt Research Forest and the longitudinal studies that have been conducted there. There will also be a small group field walk the following Saturday at the Holt Research Forest; attendees will be able to see the forest and learn about the planned timber harvest for fall 2020. Attendance will be limited and attendees will need to practice safe COVID protocols. Phine will publicize the two events with a digital announcement to town residents.
3. Water Access: Dee Dee Jorgensen reported on the meeting that she and Bob Ater had with the property owner at the proposed east side access site. She has learned that if a property owner allows recreational access across their property they can not be sued. The property owner doesn't want any signage that would indicate public access. He wants access to be limited to Arrowsic residents. He hasn't spoken to the abutters, whose right -of-way and driveway would be used to access the parking area, and would like to have more finalized details before having a conversation with them. The Commission assumes that the Town would be responsible for maintaining the commonly used section of the driveway. It seems that there is space for 4 cars and a turn around. The parking space would be delineated by downed trees or other similarly rustic barriers. Some existing shoreline erosion was noted at the put in point and it was noted if the slope was hardened, Shoreland Zoning and permitting requirements would need to be followed. Dee Dee will try to get Water Access on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting. She asked that an ACC member be present to represent the Commission's understanding. She will also ask Bob Ater to attend.
4. The minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.
5. Mail: No water quality results were received. A Best Practices Guide for solar power site planning published by Natural Resources Council of Maine and Maine Audubon was received. There was a note that Jesse and Karen D. need to be sworn in "at a distance".
6. Water Quality Schedule: Sept 22 Phine and Karen, October 6- weather dependent. Phine may have a chance to piggy back phosphorus testing of Sewall Pond sediments on to some sediment sampling that is being done by UMaine staff.
7. Picture Posts: Jesse and Clarke have drafted a very nice "all-call" notice for picture post hosts. They will send it out to town residents.

8. Karin Sadtler asked for an Arrow Article regarding pumping of water from Sewall Pond. It was decided to decline her request as we want to down play this activity. The Commission was unable to think of an alternative contribution.
9. SPCAMP: Phine reviewed the current parking ordinance. It appears that it may be workable with some amendments. Phine will get copies of the current ordinance to members to mark up.
10. Fall Field Trip: The annual field trip location was discussed and Phine will do some ownership research regarding the possibilities.
11. Nature's Notes Blog: Karen D, Jesse and Paul have identified a couple of platforms that would be easier to use from an administrative and user point of view. One is a forum style and one a blog style platform. It was left to the team to decide which would be easiest for the team to interface with and if there is any cost, that will be resolved at the next meeting.
12. Nature's Notes: Paul is amazed at the numbers of grasshoppers that around this year. He had a very unusual, to him, experience with a very small fly like insect. They were swarming in the Whitmores Landing area to the point they totally carpeted the road near the shared mailboxes. He thinks thousands if not 10's of thousands of them. He was unable to identify them. He is also concerned that the dearth of monarchs is a bad sign. He had numerous caterpillars, plenty of milkweed and only two butterflies. Last year he had lots of caterpillars and lots of butterflies. Jesse had only one monarch caterpillar this year and an explosion of dragonflies which, kept the mosquitoes at bay. Noreen has a rafter (AKA a gobble or flock) of 7 tom turkeys that come through her door yard several times a day eating the grasshoppers. She has also noticed many more different species of moths and butterflies this year than in the past. Susan has seen a doe and two young-of-the-year, one of whom is limping. AND the chipmunks are eating her peaches.
13. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:31PM.
14. The next meeting will be October 20, 2020 at 5 PM. Meetings will be conducted virtually until physical distancing recommendations are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary