

ACC September 2021 Minutes
Sept. 21, 2021

The meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m. in the town hall parking lot with the following members present: Paul Schlein, Clarke Cooper, Jesse McMahon, and Phine Ewing.

1. MINUTES The August minutes were accepted as amended, with thanks.
2. MAIL There was no mail at the town hall.
3. WATER TESTING The next two water testing forays will be on September 28 and October 12. Phine will join Karen on both dates. Phine reported that the reason given for rejecting our July *E. coli* sample was that it “was beyond the allowable time frame after the sample was taken.” Upon double checking the records returned with the water test results report, it was noted that the sample was received by the lab at 8:30 a.m. the day following the sample date. This was at least as quick as our many previous *E Coli* tests, so their explanation for rejecting the sample was confusing. The HETL bills for June and July were paid for by the town without being sent to us for an okay. Phine sent an email to the town treasurer okaying their payment, and requesting that those two bills be paid for out of the Alewife Fund.
4. SPCA The water bar with protruding spike was replaced by Karen. Phine did (final?) clean-up for the season on the morning of Sept. 21. We scheduled a work session on the trail for October 9 at 11:00 a.m., to last no longer than 1 ½ hours. We will assess the water bars, those present and any that might be needed, and add brush to the ‘keep out’ areas.
5. ALEWIVES Water samplers will check the outflow from Sewall Pond to make sure that fish passage is possible for the outgoing juvies.
6. PICTURE POSTS Clarke and Jesse report that they have repaired and / or moved a couple of posts. They feel comfortable about the number of photo volunteers. One project that Clarke and Jesse would like to accomplish for this fall’s king tides photos is to install a water level gauge for at least one of the posts.
7. FIELD TRIP Phine reported that Jack would be willing to lead a field trip for the ACC at the Holt Research Forest to see the after-harvest forest, and to see the deer exclosures that were installed this past summer. We will work on details closer to the time of the event (Sunday, Nov. 7 at 9:30 a.m.) concerning how large a group to invite during this stage of the pandemic.
8. MEACC Phine relayed the invitation to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting at the Curtis Library in Brunswick on October 16. Though it is of interest, no one present was willing to attend an indoor meeting at this time. Phine will RSVP.
9. MEMBERS Karen Dowell has confirmed that she wishes to step down from the ACC due to health and new job considerations. With her and Susan Fenn’s resignations, we are down a

member. We will put our feelers out for possible new members, and Phine will notify the Selectmen about the vacancy.

10. FORESTRY LAWS Phine reported that there will be a hearing held online concerning a handful of towns, including Arrowsic, that have forestry ordinances that are more strict than state laws. Should loggers be able to harvest according to the states' best practices? Clarke mentioned that the Arrowsic ordinances on logging in the shoreland zone is the same as for putting a house there, and in the latter case there is lasting harm done. He thinks that logging within the shoreland zone should be more lenient for harvesting operations than for development. Paul thought the ordinance for harvesting within the shoreland zone should be stricter. Phine said that she will be unable to attend the hearing, but that our CEO plans to attend.

11. NATURE NOTES Starlings at Jesse's bird feeders recently raised a ruckus, and when she arrived to see what was the matter she found that a hawk had swooped in and nabbed a finch. She has lots of monarchs that have moved on from their swamp verbena to their swamp sunflowers, and now on to the New England Asters. Clarke reports that the Research Forest had a high small mammals count this summer, the counters were all kept very busy. There are no acorns to speak of, but it's a bumper year for balsam fir cones. Phine recently had a foot long milk snake in her basement, making its way along a wall-mounted set of shelves and knocking things off as it went along. Concurrently, the loud cricket residing in her attached greenhouse has gone silent. Paul and Clarke both report singing and carousing coyotes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phine Ewing