

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 17, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

PRESENT Noreen Blaiklock, Mildred Stafford, Karen Robbins, Ralph Pope, Phine Ewing

SCHEDULE

Clean-up July 6, Ralph
July 13, Milly
July 20, Phine
July 27, Ralph

Water Quality
July 2, Noreen and Karen
July 16, Phine and Karen

CULVERT The bid-ready package for the culvert was published on Friday. Karen shared the details. The design calls for a flat bottom culvert 5' wide by 4' deep, containing a series of weirs with a V notch in each which will allow flow for fish passage during low and medium water level periods. A plastic weave mesh surface called Kamat will slow water flow to help elver passage. The culvert will include a small mammal and reptile ramp.

Our target installation time is the end of summer 2014, if all the pieces come together as planned. The next task will be due diligence and right-of-way work with abutters. We hope MDOT will take on that piece.

Karen submitted a grant application on our behalf to NOAA requesting \$50,000, and we hope to receive MPI money to match. Another possible source of funding is the US Fish and Wildlife Service habitat restoration funds.

The Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program, administered by the Nature Conservancy, is another possible source of funding. They allocate funds by region, and the mid-coast region has \$1,310,535 available for restoration work. Their focus in this region is on vernal pools and critical terrestrial habitat. Also of interest is intertidal and marine habitat, and our project fits their list of criteria.

Karen will talk to KELT and ask if they would like her to draft a letter of intent for them, or if they would like to take that on themselves.

KELT LETTER OF SUPPORT Karen drafted and we sent a letter of support of KELT's application for accreditation to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

ALEWIVES The trap was pulled on June 4. 3800 alewives passed into the pond this spring, including 718 fish that were caught below the culvert and bucketed over. An estimated 5000 fish were seen in the pool below the culvert but were unable to make it through the culvert to the pond (demonstrating that the culvert is an important impediment to restoring the fishery). We clocked 200 volunteer hours this spring.

Karen noted that the Scholarship Committee has an article on the warrant asking if the town will vote to spend money from their fund, dedicated solely to scholarships. She questioned why the conservation commission was discouraged from submitting a similar article about spending from the alewife fund, which would have given us a platform for speaking about the alewife project at town meeting.

PESTICIDES A town resident was surprised to see a pesticide outfit at a neighbor's property, which was being sprayed for mosquitoes and ticks. Karen mentioned a state registry which allows landowners to request (in writing to their neighbors, and with notice to the State Board of Pesticides) that their neighbors notify them 24-48 hours before any pesticide application, if they are within 500', or, in the case of aerial application, if they are within 1000'. The town of Ogunquit has an ordinance that bans pesticide use on public lands. They tried to pass a ban on the use of pesticides on private land as well (with the exception of poison ivy control), but it was narrowly voted down. We will resume the conversation on pesticide use at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.
Respectfully submitted,

Phine Ewing