

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 21, 2015 5:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES of the March meeting were read and accepted as written.

WATER QUALITY BROCHURE Karen had come across a water quality booklet put out by the Harpswell Conservation Commission, and was impressed by the concept. She spoke to Mary Ann Nahf, chair of the HCC, to learn about their process. They wrote sections of special interest to Harpswell residents, including "Landscaping," "Dealing with Pests," "Caring for your Yard," and "On or Near the Water." In searching for funding partners for the printing process (they printed 2500 copies), they were persuaded to broaden the scope, adding three more sections. They chose not to distribute one to each household, but to make them available at town hall and to various local realtors. It is also available on line.

Because of her work with the culvert design grant, Karen recently received a request for proposals for a Coastal Program grant. All states with sea shoreline are eligible for federal funds under this program, except for Alaska, which has refused them. There is some question as to Maine's participation in coming years, so Karen thought if we would be interested in applying for a grant from this program, we should not put it off till next year. The application deadline is May 14. In light of this time frame, members of the ACC had been emailed a copy of the brochure (or loaned a hard copy) before the meeting.

Karen and Phine met with Carrie Kinne and Ruth Indrick at KELT to find out if they would be interested in being involved in the grant process. They expressed interest, and agreed to reach out to towns in the KELT area. They received a letter of support from the Georgetown Conservation Commission just prior to the ACC meeting.

All members present voted to pursue the Coastal Programs Grant for producing a water quality brochure, with the help of KELT. Paul Schlein had emailed his approval before the meeting.

WATER QUALITY TESTING Ralph and Karen will sample on May 5; Phine and Karen on May 19. Phine reported that despite two requests to HETL for Tot. P and chl. a sampling kits (the first on March 31), we are still not in receipt of them.

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP Phine joined the ASWRC demonstration on sorting our recyclables from the clean-up event. She showed the white bags ACC will be supplying for recyclables/returnables, and the black bags for trash.

ALEWIVES Ice out was April 15 this year. The trap went in yesterday, Monday April 21. Karen's crew, Nick and Milt, had already retrofitted the trap to fit the new culvert, so installation went smoothly.

There are several motion sensitive cameras up at the site. Karen mentioned the “soft” opening of the culvert movie at the KELT annual meeting earlier in the month – “soft” because the spring in-migration footage with the new culvert has not been shot yet.

Bob Rogers has agreed to put a gauge on the downstream end of the culvert. This gauge will be tied with USGS out of Bangor, and will be able to be integrated with a wide range of uses.

ARROW Paul had requested that ACC submit a paragraph for next the Arrow. Phine suggested that she could submit something about the roadside clean-up.

BILLS We are having trouble sorting out what bills have come in from HETL and which ones have been paid, and to what account charged. It appears that we have paid for two of the three samples we took in FY2014/15, and are trying to sort it out with the lab. Phine suggested that each time a bill arrives, it be mentioned in the minutes so that we have our own records.

NATURE NOTES Milly reported seeing geese in her field about a month ago, an unusual sight. It was still very snowy, but the geese were visiting the windblown sections of the field. They came around six times, and ranged in number from 8 to 2. Ralph reported that about 60 seals are to be seen in the river in front of his house. The fish must be here! He also mentioned that this time of year, after the snow has gone and before the leaves expand, is the big season for Cryptogams, such as lichens, mosses and ferns. Phine reported that the first Hazelnut female flower appeared on April 15, almost two weeks later than normal.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55
Respectfully submitted,

Phine Ewing
Temporary secretary