

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 21, 2014

Present: Phine Ewing (chair), Paul Schein, Noreen Blaiklock, Ralph Pope, Mildred Stafford, Karen Robbins, Jason Seiders (IF&W), Doug Kulis (IF&W)

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM.
2. Jason Seiders, Region Two IF & W Fish Biologist, reviewed the science and rationale for stocking ponds such as Sewall Pond with Brook trout. IF & W strives to optimize the return on the effort (cost) of growing and stocking hatchery fish without adversely impacting the native species or habitat of a water body and equitable access. IF & W defines "return" as catches by anglers; keeping is not necessary for the definition. A good return for the department is 50 – 110 %, with over 100% being achieved through catch and release behavior by the angler. The stocking rate for Brook trout is 4 – 4.5 per surface acre of water body. Based on Doug's conversations with fisherman last winter he believes the return for Sewall Pond was near a 100%. Brook trout are often stock in our region because they don't compete well with native species. Brook trout cost the state on average \$8/fish to raise and stock. Jason's study of Sewall Pond suggests the native species are white perch, alewife, American eel and four-spined stickleback. "Equitable access" is a pond that has similar access for the public and private individuals. The next seasons fishing law book will include a narrative for Sewall Pond that addresses some of the stakeholder concerns that have been identified. The discussion shifted to the "no fishing within 150 feet of a fishway" rule. It was agreed that the new culvert is a fishway. It was further agreed the Commission will measure to the rock on the fishing point (Karen and Ralph will do Friday) and write a letter to Jason (Phine will draft) requesting that the 150' distance be relieved in Sewall Pond. This will allow Doug to enforce a rule that accommodates fishing activities without conflicting with alewife use of the culvert. Jason will work to include it in the 2016 Rule Book. Work on the Rule Book begins in December.
3. The minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting were accepted as written.
4. The culvert article for the Arrow was approved for submission.
5. Karen presented a Powerpoint of the culvert installation, and juvies and a green frog using the culvert.
6. The November 9 field trip was discussed and it was decided to go to Judy Kahrl's Baldhead property this year and try to go to the Clarke Lake Settlement next year. Karen will e-mail a public notice to be included in the next Arrow.
7. Phine will attend the KELT Infrastructure Workshop tomorrow night.
8. Karen asked the Commission if it would be an acceptable use of the designated Alewife Account to pay for the production of "The Coolest Culvert in the Midcoast". Phine recused herself because of her relationship to Charlie. The Commission asked that KELT be asked to pay half of the projected \$ 6,140 since they will be getting the most benefit from the production. Karen will negotiate with KELT and report back to the Commission.
9. There will be no regularly scheduled meeting in November because of the field trip and the next meeting will be December 16, 2014 at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

Respectfully,

Karen M. Robbins
Acting Secretary
Amended 12-16-2014

