

Arrowsic Conservation Commission Minutes
Dec. 19, 2017

The meeting convened in the town hall at 5:10 p.m., after a key was located. Present were Clarke Cooper, Susan Fenn, Noreen Blaiklock, Paul Schlein, Phine Ewing.

MINUTES of the October meeting were not available.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP Roughly 20 townsfolk (and a couple from Georgetown) attended the field trip to Joyce and Jim Spencer's property on Spring Cove. Jim talked a little about the early Clarke and Lake settlement there, and showed us where the freshwater spring was. Everyone admired the view up the Sasanoah and out towards Mill Island and beyond. We send our thanks to the Spencers.

WATER SAMPLE BILL The invoice for the last water samples of the season (#1001552, dated 10/13/17) was ok'd by Phine and put in the Treasurer's mailbox to be paid.

CCC Phine mentioned that she had not heard back from Dick Tucker about a possible talk on his Arctic trip. Paul suggested re-sending the original email with note.

FIREWORKS The new fireworks law in Maine stipulates that a person can only set off fireworks on one's own property or on the property of a consenting landowner. Fireworks cannot be set off between 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., except that on July 4 and New Year's Eve, and the two weekends surrounding these dates, they can be set off until 12:30 a.m. It was decided that this is a law enforcement issue, not a Conservation Commission matter. Phine will talk to Bob Ater and to Dale Carlton, our Town Constable.

DROUGHT QUESTIONNAIRE Clarke compiled the 99 responses we received, and constructed bar graphs for each question. These will be posted on our web page, and Clarke will consider submitting a paragraph and these graphs as an Arrow article.

BROWNTAIL MOTH Phine observed that now the leaves are finally off the trees (late this year), there appear to be almost no browntail moth cocoons visible. Clarke reported a few around their house on Cottage Rd.; Paul estimated, after surveying about 50 oaks on Whitmore's landing, that they have only about 10 - 15% of the population they had last year. He contacted state entomologist Charlene Donahue, who said that the browntail moth population did not appear to be intense enough to warrant an aerial survey this year.

NATURE NOTES Susan reported a pileated woodpecker at their feeder. Paul observed that the birds seem to have disappeared for months. (The Audubon website says many people are noting the lack of birds at their feeders, and that it is

likely due to the warm fall; when the temperature drops, the birds should be back.) Clarke mentioned that Jack Witham is getting all sorts of calls about this, and that while the birds had been missing, they are finally back around his feeder. Phine confirmed the lack of forest birds on the Christmas Bird Count, and that it was eerily silent in the woods. Noreen reported a male cardinal who was attempting to attack a Christmas cactus on their windowsill. Phine observed that Sewall Pond had frozen over for the winter on Dec. 14. Susan had a fox on her porch. Noreen described her cat's chipmunk shenanigans. Paul remarked on the paucity of the squirrel population, and Clarke corroborated this saying that only mice and a very few voles were live-trapped on the Holt property last season.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.
Respectfully submitted,

Phine Ewing