

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 18, 2017

Present: Phine Ewing (chair), Mildred Stafford, Clarke Cooper, Noreen Blaiklock, Karen Robbins, Susan Fenn (Alewife Volunteer), Mike Brown (DMR), Greg King (DMR)

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02PM
2. Mike Brown and Greg King from DMR-Sea Run Fish Group presented the Sampling Results for 2007-2016 for Sewall Pond River Herring Fisheries. He spoke about the Sewall Pond population and trends that have been occurring, as well, how the east coast river herring populations are doing in general. If Arrowsic were interested in opening the run up to harvest we would have to have 10 years after the last modification demonstrating the run can sustain “some” harvesting. Each state sets the review criteria, has the data reviewed by the ASMFC Technical Review Committee (TRC) and has the TRC find in the positive to open a run to harvest. DMR considers age structure, specie assemblages, sex ratios, repeat spawners, escapement targets and mortality rates. In summary, in Sewall Pond the numbers are trending in a positive direction. Mike asked that we try to fatally sample 150 juvenile alewives during the out-migration each year after weighing and measuring them. He would also like to see the choked stream between the outlet and old fishway be managed to keep the channel clear for fish passage. He will speak to the Army Corp of Engineers to see how to best achieve that.
3. The minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting were accepted as amended.
4. Phine hasn't heard back from the Town Treasurer about the different fund designations for the Alewife Account.
5. Water Quality Sampling schedule: Noreen and Karen 7/25; Phine and Karen 8/5 in combination with the annual plant survey. It was noted that when Phine and Karen meet with the DEP scientists June 27 they determined Sewall isn't a phosphorus impaired pond. It is a slightly brackish pond—with a large fresh water lens over a thin anoxic salt water wedge that keeps the native phosphorus in the sediments circulating in the water column. In light of this, the Commission is waiting for confirmation on the revised sampling frequency; perhaps only once a year.
6. Litter and Beaver Debris Patrol: Clarke 7/22; Phine 7/29; Millie and Phine 8/5; Paul 8/12. Phine made several observations. A) A water bar needs to be replaced on the conservation area path and chips added, B) someone has sprayed the poison ivy on the 127 side “fishing point”. We will call an ad-hoc work session for the path.
7. Ticks and Brown-tailed moths: Phine sent a letter to the Select Board and the Health Officer regarding tick control through culling of the deer herd. She hasn't received any response. Phine is seeing the adult brown-tailed moths at her house and Clarke has seen the heavy defoliation that Harpswell experienced this summer.
8. Phine has sent the Select Board a couple of candidates to consider to fill out the Conservation Commission.
9. In response to recent legislation-Should Arrowsic have a Food Sovereignty Ordinance? Woodcock Farm, the largest farm on Arrowsic, does not feel a need for

an ordinance. Other members would like more information, which Phine will get from our own Senator Vitelli.

10. Phine will mention to the Road Commission that "3 ft to pass" bike signs are available to towns.
11. Nature's Notes: Milly mentioned the dearth of Japanese beetles and added that as of today there three less on the island. Millie's cliff swallows have left again. Phine's monarchs are making their chrysalis'
12. Phine will contribute a short note for the Arrow reminding everyone that we only have the Rte. 127 access because of Mrs. MacKenzie's generosity and no herbicides are allowed within 25 feet of the pond.
13. Clarke has 15 well survey responses to date and still hasn't received any paper responses-which some members have made. Phine will ask around for them.
14. The next meeting is August 15, 2016 at 5PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.
15. The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins,
Acting Secretary