

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

June 20, 2017

Present: Phine Ewing (chair), Mildred Stafford, Clarke Cooper, Paul Schlein, Noreen Blaiklock, Karen Robbins

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02PM
2. The minutes of the May 16, 2017 meeting were accepted as written.
3. The results of the alewife spring migration were summarized and a comparison among years was reviewed. This year was 2 ½ times better than the previous high. Mike Brown, a fish biologist from the DMR-Sea Run Fish Group, will meet with us at the next meeting to discuss the results from the exploitation modelling for Sewall Pond. Karen will invite Alewife Restoration volunteers to attend. It was also noted that several people have removed beaver debris from the culvert since the trap was pulled. It was decided that litter patrol will check the culvert at least once a week.
4. The well survey has had 11 responses. The 1989 data has been located including the raw responses.
5. Brown-tail moth (BTM): BTM caterpillars have been seen mummified in their nests. Mummified Eastern tent caterpillars have been seen also. Trees that were noted to be heavily infested with BTM this winter are not completely defoliated as expected. Paul has sent some samples to the state to determine if a fatal fungus (*Entomophaga aulicae*) is present. Members wonder how long the tree root injection maintain their effectiveness.
6. Black-legged tick AKA deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*): The Town's Health Officer is researching culling the resident white-tail deer herd to control the tick-borne spread of Lyme (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) disease and other co-infectors. The current density of deer on the island isn't known to the Commission. The Holt Research Forest doesn't have any estimates of the deer population and also noted that the deer do browse hard on the emergent oak trees, to the point of influencing the species of trees found inside the Holt Forest. It was also noted that, Commission members have not experienced the number of deer interactions that a concentration of 100 deer/ square mile would indicate. The Commission is researching the density of the herd population. Paul reminded the Commission that the Stewardship Guide described personal protective practices that residences can use to prevent infection. Phine will draft a letter to the Select Board and Health Officer to encourage outreach and education for Arrowsic residents about tick-borne diseases.
7. The new member discussion continued and the Commission hopes to have a suggestion for the Select Board next month.
8. Water Quality: Karen has spoken to Doug Suitor Maine DEP Water Quality Lakes Division about the values of DO and total phosphorus that Sewall Pond have and have had historically. He and another DEP scientist will be meeting Karen and Phine at the pond on Tuesday June 28th. Karen and Noreen will be sampling on July 11th.
9. Beaver and Litter Patrol: June 24/25 Paul and Milly, July 3 Paul and Milly, July 10 Clarke, July 17 Phine

10. Clarke reviewed the new web site and will add a Commission e-mail address. We will add alewife data summaries, and Nature's Notes. Arrowsic residents will be encouraged to add to the Nature's Notes section as well.
11. Nature's Notes: During the most recent water quality field day a snapping turtle was seen laying eggs. A couple of pictures will be added to Nature's Notes on the website. Milly's cliff swallows are back and making nests. Phine has observed chickadees using the swallow's nests. There are fox families in residence around Spinney Mill and the Old Stage Rd. Phine learned why the American robin is named *Turdus migratorius* when she disturbed a female with a nest of fledglings.
12. The next meeting will be July 18, 2017 at 5PM at the Town Hall.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins,
Acting Secretary