

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 21, 2019

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Noreen Blaiklock, Susan Fenn, Clarke Cooper, Karen Robbins

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM
2. The minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting were accepted as written.
3. Roadside cleanup was attended by 25 people including 6 Morse High Green Club members on May 4th. Several people picked up trash a few days before hand. Thanks to the Recycling Committee for spear heading the effort. Phine will e-mail Katie thanking her for coordinating with the high schoolers.
4. Susan and Phine went to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting in Brunswick. Each Commission showcased what they have been working on this past year. A lot of towns are working on their Comprehensive Plans. Managing town properties for their highest ecosystem value, maintaining and conserving habitat connectivity and youth educational outreach were other re-occurring themes.
5. Alewife monitoring began April 25th. We have passed approximately 15,000 fish to date. The season will continue until the pond temperature goes up and the adults start trying to leave the pond. DMR has written a proposed addendum to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) River Herring Management Plan. They are proposing opening 6 restored alewife runs in Maine to commercial harvesting; Arrowsic's being one of them. They are proposing allowing Arrowsic to commercially harvest 8 bushels of alewives the week of May 12 each year. After discussion of the sustainability concerns and harvest management challenges, the Commission recommends continuing to keep the harvest closed, to continue to monitor the spring run and to re-evaluate in a few years.
6. Water quality monitoring schedule: May 28 Susan and Karen, June 11 Noreen and Karen, June 25 Susan and Karen. Phine, Susan and Karen went out with Doug Suitor on May 14, all three were certified or recertified for DO, total phosphorus and Secchi monitoring protocols. It has been suggested that we take an averaged core sample for chlorophyll and only test that one sample instead of the two samples we have been taking in the past. Phine will find out from Lake Stewards of Maine (LSW) if that is how they would like the Sewall Pond total phosphorus sample to be taken.
7. Conservation Area Matters: A work session was scheduled for June 4th at 3PM to add chips to the path, put up additional no parking signs and hang the "Closed from Dusk to Dawn" sign. Phine spoke with Sukey about stepping up the ordinance enforcement at the Conservation Area.
8. In the last week Phine has worked with the Codes Enforcement Officer to implement the Invasive Species Ordinance. It was in regard to cutting Norway maples in the Sewall Pond Shoreland Zone. The property owner will be replacing them with native pagoda dogwoods AKA *Swida alterniflora* or historically *Cornus alterniflora*.
9. Picture Post Project update: We are still waiting for the right of way description from MDOT. Karen will speak with John Wood to see if he has descriptions for the two areas of concern.

10. Some Clam Camp and Fall Festival ideas were discussed. A shore bird walk, beach seining at Sewall Pond and "who dropped this feather" are being considered.
11. Public Hearing on the proposed Town Meeting Articles will be held this Thursday evening. Phine has been speaking with Dr. Groden regarding the status of LD 1037 which will fund her project, so she can speak to the brown-tail moth article if people ask at the Public Hearing or Town Meeting.
12. Nature's Notes: IF&W are watching a pair of peregrine falcons which have nested on the BIW dry dock. Karen saw a snapping turtle burrow under so many oaks leaves it wasn't seen at all. Noreen's tom turkey has taken to arguing with her Devon cow in what seems to be unique and unusual ways. Phine saw a chestnut-sided warbler. Susan has seen many numbers and species of warblers in the last few days, a healthy fox, eagles and ospreys and many great blue herons on the marsh. She has not seen many trailing arbutus.
13. Other: We have received John Wood's survey of the Conservation area and it will be filed in the Conservation Commission file drawer.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM
15. The next meeting will be June 18 at 5 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Robbins
Acting Secretary