

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 18, 2018

Present: Noreen Blaiklock (Chair), Paul Schlein, Mildred Stafford, Susan Fenn, Clarke Cooper, Karen Robbins

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:05PM
2. The minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting were accepted as amended.
3. Water quality schedule is: September 25-Phine and Karen, October 9-Susan and Karen. HETL has send the lab results for the August 14th sampling. Total phosphorus was 19 ppb, Chlorophyll  $\alpha$  at the surface was 0.007 and at 2m was 0.005 mg/L. E Coli from near the swimming area was 14 MPN/100 $\pi$ . We will ask that this month's bill be paid from the Alewife Fund except the E-coli portion from the Conservation Commission Budget.
4. The Sewall Management Plan was discussed, focusing on recent night use violations and the continued use of a rope swing on the west side of the pond. Abutters to the pond are concerned about the loud and rowdy night time use of the rope swing. They are concerned about the user's safety, the town's liability and their disrupted sleep. It was decided to: 1. let the rope tree stand and to cut down the ropes as they appear, 2. enforce the park closure times by calling the sheriff; abutters to the pond have been told they may call the sheriff directly, 3. Karen will coordinate restoring the existing sign on the Old Stage Rd side with reflective (i.e. night visible) paint for "Closed Dusk to Dawn", 4. Susan will write a brief reminder to residents to be published in the next Arrow with the page out of the Stewardship Guide. 5. The Conservation Commission will continue to monitor the activities in and around the pond. Additionally, the fall trail maintenance session was scheduled for Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 4PM.
5. The Select Board is hosting a report from the Georgetown Tick Control Committee on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Arrowsic Town Hall. Paul will print and laminate several 8 ½ by 11" sized copies of page 23 of the Stewardship Guide to be posted at the Town Hall.
6. Mary Ann Naft and the Harpswell Conservation Commission will meet with the CCC Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Harpswell Town Office. Phine, Paul, Susan and Karen are definitely going.
7. It was reported that the Select Board is drafting a municipal position paper against the amendment to the federal Farm Bill which will over ride local control of pesticide applications. Karen and Paul will draft a letter representing the Conservation Commission's position that loss of local control over this important issue is not appropriate. It will be sent to members of the Farm Bill Conference Committee members and our federal legislatures.
8. The location of the Annual Field trip was discussed and no definitive decisions were made. Commissioners will continue to think about it.
9. Natures Notes: Clarke and Jack trapped 1400+ small mammals in August. They haven't finished reducing the data so don't yet know how many are repeat catches. They do know that ~ 85% were white-footed mice and a lot of red squirrels and

chipmunks. They sent about 300 ticks to the lab to be tested for Lyme's and other tick-bone diseases. Paul has heard a lot of bird songs that he doesn't recognize. Milly still has a wily creature throwing biscuits and other trash around her shed. Susan has seen a lot of toads since the most recent rain and is reporting "flashes" of large mixed flocks of birds-perhaps mixed starlings, grackles and blackbirds. Noreen is protecting her toads from a young heron that has been patrolling her fields.

10. Other business: Brian and Dale Carlton are developing a more comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and will incorporate the pump handle into it. Milly will continue to review the Comprehensive Plan this month and the Commission as a whole will discuss it next month.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM
12. The next meeting will be October 16 at 5PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

Respectfully,  
Karen Robbins, Acting Secretary