

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 19, 2024

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair) Karen Robbins, Clarke Cooper, Jenna Howard, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Carla Weeks, Guests: Jody Jones, Bob Ater (briefly)

The meeting, held in person, was called to order by Phine at 5:30 PM.

Minutes: The January and February Minutes were approved as amended.

Mail: Public notice has been sent to the Selectboard from Land for Main's Future, notifying them that the Conservation Commission's proposal for the purchase of the Packard property for public access to the Back River was selected as a finalist, pending certain due diligence tasks and a public hearing. In other mail, statements have been sent to us from water quality testing.

Resilience Committee Update: The group agrees that a dedication to Bill and Noreen Blaiklock would make sense. Jody asks for questions and concerns and presents the schedule for sign off from conservation commission. Carla asks for more context around the 3.9 feet water rise and some reference in a current map view. (MDOT is managing current roads with the word) "Be prepared to" and "Do expect" is suggested by Karen. Karen will send marsh walk and ice fishing photos, Jenna will send alewife photos, Jesse will send other photos for a suggested redesign of the back cover of the Handbook. Karen suggests the ACC send a letter to Evan thanking him for his photography. Implementation: Phine and Jody are planning a meeting with town leaders in May to discuss how to get implementation going. We discuss how a small committee of three for up to two years would help committees implement items and resource those projects and even seek funding.

Grant Update: KELT's Ruth Indrick will be convening MDOT grant funding meetings to determine consultants, input process with advisory group. Clarke would be the ACC member on the advisory group. Once hydrology and geo-testing is complete, there will be a public input process.

Annual Report: Karen wrote a draft report for the Town annual report. A revised version was approved and will be sent to Denise Parker before the April 1 deadline.

Water Access: Clarke drafted an enabling ordinance to establish an independent Water Access Committee. Bob Ater was thanked for his efforts. He will bring the proposed ordinance and a financial overview to selectboard for legal review. Bob reported they have an aggressive schedule for the next year. It will be published online.

Budget Our budget should include water quality testing (\$510/season not including \$25 for *Escherichia coli*). Chair Phine recused herself from the following discussion: that the commission request that the Conservation Commission chair receive a stipend equal to what other committee chairs receive, this year that was \$541. Karen moved, and Jenna seconded that. The motion passed by a vote of 6 – 0, the chair abstaining.

Roadside Cleanup: April 27th is the date set! Phine confirms we have enough bags for the event.

Seawall Pond Conservation Area: At trail work day, we will pick out a tree for the pegboard "carry in carry out." We will meet for trail work on May 18th at 1:30 in the afternoon! Our beautiful new signs, made by Carla, will be installed then. The public will be invited.

Conservation Commission Coalition Meeting: Phine will ask the CCC who would be willing to host.

Bioblitz: Three dates have been chosen: Saturday April 13 1:00 in the afternoon; Sunday morning at 10:00 on June 9; and the afternoon of Saturday, August 24 to inventory the creatures and their habitat on the town-owned parcel. It would be a four-hour recording of what is alive. We envision having as many people record as possible. iNaturalist will be used as a recording tool. Insect experts are needed. Staging will be at Mark and Angel's garage.

Cooperative Extension's entomologist Charles Armstrong recommended using an app called SEEK for iNaturalist. Maine insect facebook group may be asked.

Blue pheromone and bug traps will be set. We'll ask folks what they want to look into: vernal pools, trees, bugs, animals. We'll look at findings together afterward. Karen found a 1972 Times Record Article about a bioblitz put on by Arrowsic's Marshland Association. Priscilla and Karen will work out more details.

Nature Notes: Clarke heard a tremendous turkey commotion at 3:00am. He notes many blue jays showing up a few weeks ago and then disappearing. Karen took a photo of her first wood frog last Thursday. Ice out was on March 7th. On March 14, on the road up to the bog, Phine spotted coltsfoot on the cusp of blooming. Phine balanced an egg perfectly on the equinox. Jesse notes many barred owls and an interaction sighting. Carla saw a bluebird in one of her birdhouses. Jenna notes seeing her first robin. Jesse and Phine have heard them for a few weeks now.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30. Next meeting will be April 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Howard