

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 16, 2024

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair) Karen Robbins, Clarke Cooper, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Priscilla Tucker, Carla Weeks, Guests: Abby Westberry

The meeting, held in person, was called to order by Phine at 5:40 PM.

Minutes:

Amendments to March Minutes: add note re CRC back cover discussion, and note that thank you to Evan be from the CRC.

Mail: No Mail

Bioblitz:

- Karen reports as a resounding success, fun had by all. The next two are scheduled - June 9th and August 24th
- 20 observers, 193 observations (of which 119 were unique) recorded via images and video.
- Common creatures id'd: chipmunks, birds, frogs, voles
- Priscilla was surprised how much diversity was captured (19 to the species level)
- 3-4 invasives (ie honeysuckle)
- Some skulls were uploaded (including a racoon)
- Egg masses, wood frogs, four-toed salamander, hairy-tailed mole
- Matt Chatfield and several of his UMO grad students attended and helped ID species.
- Priscilla suggests that next time we make it clear that you can participate without having an iphone. All are welcome; to assist or just observe.
- There were several outliers that couldn't be identified.
- Karen thought it was tough to get clear pictures at night, and that we need to refine the remote camera trapping. Priscilla suggested plexi boxes or additional lighting.

Roadside Clean-up: Set for 4/27 at 9.30am. Phine suggested posting a google message as well as the town email.

Water Access Update:

- Phine shared that we have finally received the appraisal. Surveyor is coming out at the end of next week.
- Clarke gave site updates:
 - Lots of invasives out, Barn was cleaned
 - Got permit applications in for the pier, ramp, and parking area
 - Float has been retrieved and is ready to go
 - Windows have been removed from house, and ReStore has taken what they want.
 - 3 articles for warrant: one for a stand alone Water Access Management Committee, one to regulate various activities, and one appropriating \$30,000 from town surplus to pay down loan.

Climate Resilience Update:

- Phine mentions email from Claire Enterline recommending that the town ask MDOT to plan for 8' sea level rise in its plans for Rt. 127, due to the road's importance to two communities in emergency access.

- Meeting for committee chairs to go through action plan, and get buy-in from all.
- Karen asks if there will be a public hearing to review final plans? No one was sure but suspected there might be. Jesse will email Jody to ask.
- Phine expressed importance of deciding priorities on plan.
 - Priscilla suggests items that prioritize conservation of wetlands because they are connected to so much.
 - Karen points out that the implementation plan doesn't state (in the language) measures to specifically protect drinking water. Jesse suggests that we share an edit with Jody (cc alicia) or to add it in as an addendum.
 - Phine suggests that we write an ordinance requiring that commercial pesticide applicators be required to register with the town each time they apply pesticides in town, telling what pesticide they are using, for what problem, and how much is to be applied. That would give us an idea about the extent of the problem.

Seawall Pond Conservation Area: Carla to make an additional sign "closed dusk to dawn".

Conservation Commission Coalition:

- Still undecided location or time of meeting, however the group decided in person is best.
- Suggested locations: library, Bath Brewery.
- Phine will reach back out to via email with suggestions

Water Testing:

- Phine says we are all paid up and new tests are on the way
- Jesse wonders if we should test for PFAS, given relevance in the news
- Karen and Phine will start on May 7th. Karen and Carla will test on May 21st.

Nature Notes:

- Birds are officially out! And baby June!!
- Everyone ventured out for the solar eclipse
- Jesse saw a Broadwing Hawk in her backyard
- Phine said Mayflowers were out early
- Clark saw a short tailed shrew in his compost
- Priscilla had a mole in her veggie garden, and a neighbor has reported an indigo bunting at their birdfeeder.

FEMA: Has been visiting houses making sure residents are aware of the post-storm relief they are eligible for.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm. Next meeting will be May 21st.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Weeks