

## **ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

June 18, 2024

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair) Karen Robbins, Clarke Cooper, Jenna Howard, Priscilla Tucker  
Guest: Abbie Westberry

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

**Minutes:** May Minutes were approved with edits.

**Mail:** May water testing results indicated that Seawall Pond's Phosphorus level was 19mg/L and Chlorophyl A was 5.8mg/L. Lake Stewards of Maine sent the Select Board a letter requesting \$500 from the town of Arrowsic.

**Annual Report Correction:** The report incorrectly stated that the ACC overspent our budget by \$150. However, the Commission was charged for a Climate Resilience project element. This will be corrected.

**Seawall Pond Conservation Area:** This July 9 and 23, water will be tested by Karen and Phine then Karen and Clarke. After the Conservation Commission asked the Road Commission to add skirting on the road near SPCA, they completed this quickly and beautifully. Jenna will clean SPCA on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Phine the 29<sup>th</sup>, Clarke on July 6<sup>th</sup>, Priscilla the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Access:** As a result of a vote at Town Meeting, this work will be done by its own committee. Clark reports that pier and ramp fabrication will be completed this week. Installation will happen in the next two or three weeks. Sean Jalbert is coming up to consult on native planting. LMF walked through on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Bob Ater is working on ordinance details and compliance.

**Conservation Commission Coalition Meeting:** Arrowsic hosted Phippsburg, Georgetown, and Westport Island conservation commissions this year to learn about the other towns are working on, including the Westport well survey, Phippsburg's wild oyster project, and Georgetown gave a Reid State Park update and discussed town building work being done as a local Climate Resilience grant project. Sparrow Hawk audited their buildings and they learned buildings were in fairly good shape.

**Bioblitz:** Priscilla reports there were 8 observers on the rainy June 9 Bioblitz. 76 different species were identified with 129 reports. Plants and fungi were the most reported. Bird calls were captured. INaturalist was used as a recording tool. Karen notes four invasives including Dames Rocket (level 2 very invasive) and Phine noted Japanese Knotweed. Karen reports that the game camera recording captured 23 deer mice, 8 chipmunk, 1 mole, 14 meadow voles, 10 unknown, 1 gray squirrel, 1 raccoon, 1 mink, 1 coyote, 6 wood ducks, 2 deer at the same time, and 1 ribbon snake. When the vernal pool turned to total dryness, different creatures appeared.

**Nature Notes:** Clarke notes the distinct yellow haze of pine pollen. Karen saw a snowy egret on Bufflehead Marsh last week. Phine notes Amy Smith has a rabbit in her garden. Priscilla saw a female mallard who squatted down on her chicks, perhaps. Her husband Mike saw a weasel with a catch (a mouse) dart across the road close to the Packard Property on Indian Rest. Winter month hatched in the end of May and we could hear the frass falling in the forest and saw many oak trees defoliated. A possible biocontrol measure that was deployed in New Harbor was discussed. Phine has not seen any June Bugs and very few have been seen by all members of the group. Jenna reports

seeing an Eastern Newt eff. Priscilla and Jenna saw Ladyslippers on Squirrel Pond Trail and many are reported in Arrowsic. The Hemlocks that survived are doing fine! Guest Abbie saw a snapping turtle laying her eggs at her Brunswick Pond.

**Climate Action Plan:** One of the ACC charges in the Action Plan is to create an inventory of resources. Karen reached out to *Beginning with Habitat* an IFW program who inventories and leverages different resources such as municipal planning, non-game species. Corinne Michaud LeBlanc, who is Climate Coordinator for the “Beginning with Habitat” program at Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. She is the person who helps towns overlay information about vulnerable species over state assets such as infrastructure maps, zoning information, and stream crossings. She may be willing to meet with us in August. The Commission decides to develop what steps we need to take and the most efficient approaches to accomplish our part of the Climate Plan Actions. Karen got a large zip file including maps—and she asked to get printed copies. Maps were reviewed by the commission. The committee reviewed climate resilience action items and then focused their discussion on long term conservation and protection of critical habitat. These include habitats providing ecosystem services to the town. Examples discussed included vernal pools and tidal marshes. The former plays a role in replenishing aquifers for drinking water and the latter provides a buffer against storm surges and in carbon sequestration. Both habitats are critical in supporting biological diversity. The committee decided to move ahead with further educating itself on these topics. Prilla offered to collect literature on the ecosystem value of vernal pools and Karen will contact Corinne Michaud-LeBlanc to invite her to discuss initiatives with us. The committee sees much overlap with the Shellfish Commission regarding tidal marsh protection. Phine will invite the Shellfish Commission to the meeting with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08PM. The next meeting will be July 16.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenna Howard