



ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 21, 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 5:35 PM.

Minutes:

Approved minutes of April meeting

Mail: No Mail

Water Quality:

- Schedule- June 4th: Phine and June 18th: Prilla
- PFAS: consider budgeting for next year. Phine researched it would cost approx \$200. In the meantime we will explore how testing would work, and what results would mean.

Conservation Area Clean-up:

- 5/25: Phine
- 6/1: Clarke
- 6/8: Jesse
- 6/15: Prilla
- 6/25: Phine

Roadside Clean-up:

- About 24 people
- Covered all of 127, Bald Head Road. and South end of Bald Head Road. Indian Rest Road was reported to look clean

Climate Resilience Update:

- Didn't feel focused on original purpose of examining existing plan. Instead generated new ideas.
- Phine's group discussed monitoring. Her take away is that we as a commission get to decide where we want to start with the tasks at hand.
- Prilla thought it was a step in the right direction
- Phine noted that people felt overwhelmed and were uncertain of what they were supposed to do.
- Phine thought it might have been better to have the resilience team meet with each committee to decide action items.

- General consensus- maybe people hadn't reviewed the document ahead of time.
- Abby observed people were not willing to discuss bigger policies, instead focusing on smaller actions we could do as individuals.

Seawall Pond Conservation Area:

- Great work done by all on trailwork day.
- Thanks to Ken Hnottavange-Telleen and Gardy Fisk - non committee attendees.
- Lots of wood chips laid down fast!
- Signs put up
- We should ask Road Commission to flatten out pull out north of trailhead. (or an apron). Phine will ask the Road Commission.
- Carla to make a new "Closed Dust to Dawn" sign to replace old one.

Water Access Update:

- Lots happening fast!
- Clarke to clear remaining wood with Bob.
- Phine shared photos of new clear site.
- Garage is being moved to Georgetown.
- On last site visit:
 - Planning board says we're changing use of driveway, so it needs to be 100% demolished, not partial. Ordinance says if it is more than 50% demoed then it has to be 100%
 - Bob argued that we should keep it because it is serving a function- preventing erosion etc. Clarke gave Bob the support of the ACC.
- Dock going in. All permits have been secured and order has been put in for pier and ramp.
- Work is going to start soon on the parking area (approved).
- Tree cutting is done.
- Invasives- yellow iris needs to come out.
- Clarke is planning to plant natives- consulting with someone to volunteer time.
- Nancy Sferra to do a natives/invasives inspection.
- Jesse suggested Kelly Corbin of the Wild Seed Project
- Prilla suggested someone that could aid in ecological identifying.

Bioblitz:

- Sunday 9th, 10-1
- Prilla will do a google group announcement trying to get more people to come to next one.
- Same protocol and meeting/parking place
- Put it in Monday newsletter- Prilla to send words and picture to Phine
- Charles Armstrong happy to identify insects
- Prilla notes iNaturalist is clunky for bird ids. Suggests using merlin in tandem (teams of 2)
- Prilla wishes we had access to an arthropod specialist
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Conservation Commission Coalition:

- Meeting decided for June 4th, 5-6pm

- Prilla to share bio blitz activities

Nature Notes:

- Clarke: garter snake on road during roadside clean-up
- Phine: Saw a garter snake eating a wood frog and found a dead hairy tail mole
- Jesse: saw a male goldfinch dive bombed her hens, phoebes building multiple nests, and huge snapping turtle in the middle of the road on Bald Head.
- Prilla: shared images of grey fox skull, and saw a mallard duck and mate walking in the meadow.

The meeting adjourned at 6.46 pm. Next meeting will be June 18th.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Weeks