

ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION
Minutes
22 February 2024

Present:

Angel Braestrup
Karen Robbins, Fish Warden
Jack Witham

Absent:

Mike McMahon
Jeff Pinette

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15.

2. Minutes

The 25 January Meeting of the Commission minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes as read, seconded, and passed by unanimous consent. The Fish Warden agreed to submit the minutes for posting on the Town website.

3. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

4. Annual Report to the Town (due April 1)

The Commissioners discussed the proposed contents of the Fish Commission's report to the Town, the accomplishments of the past year and possible additional activities before the upcoming Town meeting. It was also decided to request a budget of \$500 to cover printing and other costs related to the operation of the Commission.

5. Winter Monitoring & Repairs

Karen reported that she had visited the culvert and looked at the pond site where the fish cage usually sits over the weekend of the particularly high tides (February 9-11). In addition to the damage already discussed at the previous meeting, it was clear that this was an extraordinary event from the perspective of sheer volume of water and the salinity of the water entering the pond was significantly higher than normal.

The amount of repairs to be done and the cost of those repairs are not yet quantifiable.

There is a quantity of rip rap that will need to be moved back into place in order to place the cage and allow the full normal access for turtles and other creatures. It was agreed to ask for volunteers when a date could be determined.

It was noted that below the culvert (on the other side of 127), the way was generally clear.

6. Volunteers and Harvest Plans

The application for the permit to count fish and take samples and a possible harvest similar to the 2023 harvest has been submitted to DMR. There are at least 10 more volunteers signed up this year.

The Commission had been discussing dates for a 2024 harvest. Mike Brown of DMR has informed the Fish Warden that any harvest from Sewall Pond cannot occur before the 18th of May, per the rules of the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission. It was decided to find out whether it could occur on the 18th or if it would have to occur on the 19th. It was agreed that the later date was unfortunate as the run might be diminishing by then.

7. Arrow Article (Due March 11)

It was agreed to submit a short article about upcoming activities related to Arrowsic alewives.

8. Commissioners Handbook

Copies of the Arrowsic Fish Commission's Handbook draft were distributed to the Commissioners. The Fish Warden agreed to deliver the copies to those who were absent.

It was agreed that there would be edits and additions over time, and that any errors or omissions would be brought up at the next meeting.

9. Upcoming Meetings and Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

The April meeting is scheduled for the 25th at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

At 7:02 p.m., Angel made a motion to adjourn, Jack seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.