

ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION
25 APRIL 2024
TOWN HALL @ 6 PM
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Karen Robbins, Fish Warden
Jeff Pinette, Deputy Fish Warden
Jack Witham
Angel Braestrup

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Fish Warden Karen Robbins at 6:10 p.m. She reported that Mike McMahon was unable to attend.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes from the 28 March meeting were reviewed and approved as read by unanimous consent.
3. **Public Comment.** No members of the public were present.
4. **Annual Meeting:** It was reported that the necessary report and budget request had been sent to the Town Office by the deadline.
5. **Fish Trap Installation:** It was reported that the volunteers had succeeded in rearranging the rocks sufficiently for the trap to be installed the morning of the meeting. The first emails to recruit volunteer monitors have been sent to those who are on the permit. The presence of osprey, herons, and other predators seem to be a sign that the alewives are coming into the creek and up to the pond.
6. **Harvest:** The limited harvest has been set for May 18th. Deputy Warden Pinette agreed to ensure that totes were available and that any excess would be used by a lobsterman. Commissioner Witham and Commissioner Braestrup agreed to identify recipes for pickling and/or cooking alewives for human consumption.
7. **Improving the Fishway:** Warden Robbins reported on the meetings she has had with Commissioner Witham and representatives from engineering firms with experience in designing naturalistic fish passage improvement projects on sites similar to the one on Arrowsic. The goal remains to ensure that the water remains deep enough for fish passage in both directions, for excess water to be well managed, and for cattails to not encroach to the extent they do now. Some funding sources have been identified and will be researched more thoroughly. It was noted that volunteer hours can be part of a match and thus even more careful collection of time spent will be used for the count this season.
8. **Arrowsic Climate Action Plan:** Fish Warden Robbins reported that the chair of the Conservation Commission and the co-Chair of the Climate Resilience Committee have requested representation from the Fish Commission to a meeting on May 9th to discuss the implementation of the Arrowsic plan and how everyone can align their work with the plan and

help do their share. Commissioners Witham and Braestrup agreed to attend the meeting and report back to the Fish Commission at the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting: May 23rd at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

10. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. by unanimous consent.