

ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION
27 JUNE 2024
SEWALL POND @ 5:30 P.M.
MINUTES

Present:

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

Sewall Pond: As per the meeting announcement to the Town, the Commission began its meeting at Sewall Pond where the culvert passes under Route 127 at 5:30 rather than at Town Hall. The purpose was to look jointly at the storm damage

The removal of the damaged piece of the culvert will be completed by Jeff Pinette and it will be re-installed following the repair.

It was agreed that significant rebuilding of the stone walls that permit the wildlife access to the culvert is needed. That rebuilding will facilitate the rehabilitation of the pond bottom where the trap sits for the annual count of alewives during the in-migration in the spring. The Commissioners agreed that they will be announcing two or three work sessions for volunteers to help with the stone work.

Adjournment to Town Hall: The Commissioners moved to Arrowsic Town Hall.

Karen Robbins called the meeting to order again at 6 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 23rd meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Public Comment. No members of the public were present.

Juvenile Out-migration Monitoring: It was agreed that there would be two types of monitoring.

Weekly Monitoring through September: Volunteers would be invited to sign up for specific weeks during which they would check the culvert on both sides of Route 127 to see if there were juveniles schooling or actually leaving. The expectation is that they would check twice during the week, especially after a rainfall. During the check, they would look for juveniles, take the water temperature on the pond side of the culvert,

measure the depth of the water at a specified location, and record the data. The data sheets and thermometer will be left in the Barn at 551 Arrowsic Road.

Juvenile Sampling: The lethal sampling of juveniles will be undertaken by Fish Commission Members. The protocol requires collection of 25-50 samples once a month, the use of a special tincture to reduce trauma to the fish, measurement, and site data collection. It was agreed that each commissioner would take a week during which they would monitor the culvert for departing juveniles and sample as appropriate.

July 1-7 Commissioner Witham
July 8-15 Commissioner Braestrup
July 16-22 Deputy Warden Pinette
July 23-30 Fish Warden Robbins
July 31- August 6 Commissioner Braestrup

Additional commitments will be made as needed.

Improving the Fish Passage: Warden Robbins reported that she would be meeting again with representatives from an engineering firm with experience in designing naturalistic fish passage improvement projects on sites similar to the one on Arrowsic. As noted at previous meetings, 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. She mentioned that she had found historical records that confirm earlier efforts to control the flow of water—e.g. the old fishway—and thus the effort to improve the passage are in fact remediation and restoration.

Commissioner Witham provided input as to the status of the study of Spinney Mill Road where it crosses the creek. It is known that other species enter the creek, including trout and eels. He affirmed that the RFP for the study is going out soon.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be arranged if there were a need to meet before the next official meeting to be held the third Thursday of November at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:00 p.m.