

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
September 17, 2024

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Karen Robbins, Priscilla Tucker, Carla Weeks, Jessie Nankin McMahon, Jenna Howard, Guest Bob Nelson

The meeting, held in person, was called to order by Phine at 5:33 PM.

Minutes: Karen moved to approve the August Minutes with minor edits. Jenna seconds. All in favor.

Sewall Pond 127 Side: Guest Bob Nelson who trains for open water swimming in that pond notes this was the first year he hasn't had trouble finding parking on the 127 side. Phine starts the discussion by explaining that the MacKenzie family is concerned about 3 things: safety with the way people park and speeding, the fact that people are making new trails, and erosion. Caitlin MacKenzie and former game warden-turned family liaison officer for the service both attended the Selectboard meeting to discuss their concerns with the Selectboard. We may be able to help the MacKenzie with the erosion and trails issue.

Mail: The surveyor Bruce Martinson sent a notarized affidavit titled "Surveyor's Affidavit, Packard's Landing, Arrowsic Maine"
The Commission received two months, likely May and June, water statement of \$120 for two water quality tests.

Maine Association of Conservation Commissions: The annual meeting will be held at Curtis Memorial Library on Saturday, October 12. Clarke and Phine may attend.

Field Trip: We could ask about upland options in central Arrowsic, or a possible marsh walk. We could ask Lucy about a walk around the Newtown Marsh. We will set Sunday, November 10th with a raindate of the 17th and Phine and Karen will work on determining the location. Jesse notes low tide is at 11:35.

Sam Saltonstall Talk: On Tuesday, November 19th at 5:30 or 6, possibly 7pm we will host an Energy Efficiency Talk at Town Hall. We will ask Sam what time he prefers.

Beginning with Habitat: No follow-up needed.

CRP Grants: Jody has agreed to convene a Climate Resilience Committee. New grant applications are due in December. There is a webinar next week.

We discuss suggestions for what the next resilience grant could be; a well study to be used as a baseline study to look at data points for a future long-term study about the health of our groundwater similar to Westport Island. Findings could lead to new programs or policy such as Arrowsic covering reverse osmosis to income-qualified Arrowsic residents, Karen mentions that Harpswell wells are experiencing some saltwater intrusion. Ken HT the geologist may be asked to participate. Jesse suggests a longer-term collaboration with Georgetown on microgrid and Jenna suggested road resilience as a collaboration. Karen asks could the resilience project impact marsh health to accompany an item on the DOT next work plan, a \$3.4 million road repair for the north part of the island.

Sign for Sewall Pond Conservation Area: Phine went to Carrot Signs about a sign for the “No Parking” signs on both sides of the road. This project is on the waitlist.

Bioblitz: The summer event took place with 7 Arrowsic residents. Priscilla is compiling a field summary.

Nature Notes: Priscilla notes many large dragonflies, many are flying 30 feet up. Phine saw a few bats that high this season. Jenna notes the sounds of many owls. Abby Westbury reminded the Commission via Phine of the partial eclipse of the moon at 10-10:45 tonight. Jesse notes a recent phoebe, and a new bloom of astors, zinneas; many flowers and insects. Karen asks did the Osprey leave early? Jesse thinks it seems normal.

Other: Karen notes that the Fish Commission will survey from flood tide bank to bank 550 ft to the marsh thanks to a \$25,000 DMR grant. Karen moves to allow the Fish Commission to access as working capital that will be replenished the Alewife fund as needed. Short discussion. Jenna seconds this. All in favor.

Adjourn at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenna Howard