

Arrowsic Conservation Commission Minutes

January 21, 2025

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Carla Weeks, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Paul Schlein, Karen Robbins

The meeting, held in person was called to order by Phine at 5:37PM.

Minutes: The December 17, 2024 amended Minutes were approved with much gratitude to Jenna.

Mail: No mail was received.

Climate Resilience Talk: Phine announced the Bath Climate Action Commission is sponsoring a talk: *Wednesday February 12th 5:30-7:00pm - City Hall Auditorium*

‘Carbon Cashback for Maine’ - Citizens Climate Lobby - Peter Dugas/ New England Regional Director

Peter Dugas, New England Coordinator for the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) will present on current legislative proposals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate their effectiveness and their political viability. This presentation will leave you with a better understanding of how we address the complicated international climate crisis as well as providing hope that solutions are possible. This presentation will also include a demonstration of the EN-ROADS Climate Simulator created by MIT’s Sloan School of Management.

Donations: Bruce Zuwalick sent a \$25 donation which was added to the designated Alewife Fund. Phine also reported she donated her 2024-25 ACC Chair stipend; \$300 to the Alewife Fund and \$200 to the Water Access Fund. Clarke will provide an update on the Water Access Fund at our next meeting.

Water Quality Data: Phine shared her plot of the Secchi depth, total phosphorus and chlorophyll α over the course of the summer.

MacKenzie Sewall Pond Water Access: Phine spoke with Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation (AVSWC) about what services they can provide and fees they charged. Phine thinks they might be helpful to the MacKenzie family. Jesse will draft a letter summarizing the services and telling them the current AVSWC fee schedule: \$60/hr plus mileage, the first hour is free.

Pesticides: At the December meeting ACC decided to make pesticides a focus area for 2025. After a robust conversation the ACC decided: we need to understand how residents are using pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides among others); to consider

testing water (wellheads, Sewall Pond) and soil testing to understand the presence of pesticides in Arrowsic's environment; to educate the Commission members about various pest management techniques and published health hazards, to educate Arrowsic residents about Best Management Practices; to consider policy changes. Paul will reach out to his contacts for possible model surveys from which the Commission could develop its own survey for Arrowsic residents.

Bioblitz 2025: Phine has made initial contact with the UMO lab that conducted the original study. She is waiting for the lead investigator to reply.

Nature Notes: Phine saw a kingfisher a week ago, has bluebirds and almost hit a bobcat just outside of Belfast. Carla saw a bobcat in the suburbs of Brunswick a few weeks ago as well. All the daytime bobcat sightings led to the "do you have as many birds at your feeder as usual" discussion. Several people reported seeing fewer birds. Is it because there hasn't been any snow cover until yesterday, the bear that damaged several bird feeders last fall, less feeding of the birds?? Commissioners hope the dearth of birds is seasonal and not a longer-term trend.

Next Meeting: February 18, 2025 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. In Phine's absence, Karen will chair and Carla will be the back up secretary.

Adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Robbins