

Arrowsic Conservation Commission Minutes

February 18, 2025

Members present: Karen Robbins, Paul Schlein (remote), Phine Ewing (remote), Clarke Cooper, Carla Weeks

Public present: Abby Westbury

Meeting called to order at 5:35.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Mail: No mail.

Budget and Annual Report: Phine will write these. We will budget for five water quality tests and look into the price of PFAS tests (thought to run around \$250). We need to confirm who pays for road signs on Old Stage Rd. at Sewell Pond.

Pesticides: Paul has put a number of files on a shared Google Drive; he has contacted several towns; has only heard back from South Portland, whose ordinances may not be very applicable for Arrowsic. He thinks it could be helpful to consider AI-generated survey questions, with appropriate review and adapting to be Arrowsic-specific. There is a legislative move afoot (once again) to prohibit home-rule ordinances from imposing tighter controls than Federal regulations.

Water access: The Land for Maine's Future grant has finally been received or will be shortly. This leaves the town with a debt of \$87,000. The Water Access Committee has drawn up a list of suggestions for paying this off and Bob Ater will present these to the Select Board at their next meeting.

Web page: We will all check the ACC page on the new town site and judge what revisions may be necessary.

Nature Notes: Through the rigorous polar vortex weather Abby has been fervently putting out seed for the birds and squirrels. Jesse -- contrary to Clarke's last report -- thinks she's been seeing the normal number of birds. Phine saw the kingfisher again and heard the pheasant; no turkeys. Carla has a couple of red squirrels that seem interested in invading the house. Paul, in the Bahamas, had seen very few birds because of high winds but that has settled down and they immediately saw Bahama mockingbirds and thick-billed vireos, whose call is "sit with your knees up".

Next meeting: March 18.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17.