

**ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
27 MARCH 2025**

**Present:**

**Commissioners:** Jeff Pinette (Deputy Warden), Karen Robbins (Fish Warden), Jack Witham (Commissioner), Angel Braestrup (Commissioner)  
**Members of the Public:** Wendy Van Dyke

**Absent:** Mike McMahon, Deputy Warden

Warden Robbins called the meeting to order at 6:05.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes from the 27 February 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented by unanimous consent.
2. **Public Comment:** The public had no comment.
3. **Annual Report to the Town:** The draft annual report language was reviewed and approved as presented by unanimous consent, with Karen Robbins agreeing to confirm any formatting needs with the Town.
4. **2025/26 Budget Request:** It was agreed to request that the Town approve a budget of \$1000 in the face of possible additional costs related to trap repair, monitoring, and other needs.
5. **Report on Board of Selectmen's meeting:** Karen Robbins reported that the Board of Selectmen will add the proposed amendment to the Fish Commission's enabling ordinance to this year's Annual Meeting Warrant pending legal review by the town attorney.  
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6. **State of Sewall Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Project:** Karen Robbins reported the modelling continues. She further reported that the project contractor, SWCA, has submitted its first invoice and the process to provide payment is well under way at DMR.
7. **eDNA sampling:** As noted at the previous meeting, eDNA sampling by Bigelow Lab staff was deemed to have real value in ensuring that the Fish Passage Enhancement Project benefited as many anadromous fish as possible. Karen Robbins reported that she and Vince Capone had collected the first sample from the iced-over Sewall Pond from three sites and delivered it to the Bigelow Lab. She also reported additional water quality sampling at the "deep hole" site and finding that below three meters there was greater conductivity indicating greater salinity.

The Fish Commission unanimously agreed to collect composite samples near the Spinney Mill Culverts and old fishway once at the end of April and once later in the summer. This will cost \$3,000 dollars at Bigelow Labs. Karen Robbins reported that at the March meeting, the Arrowsic Conservation Commission had approved spending up to \$4500 from the alewife account to support limited, well-considered testing

7. **Spring Monitoring Prep:** In recent years, the trap has gone into the pond around the third week of April. There was some discussion about what was needed to ensure the integrity of the trap for this season. There were additional discussions about the improvement in the pond bed at the trap site as compared to the effects of last winter's storms. The commissioners agreed that:

- 1) Jeff and Karen were going to replace the top crossbar in the next few weeks.
- 2) An email would be sent to the 2025 roster of volunteers and Clarke would be asked to set up the calendar again.
- 3) it would be great to invite the younger volunteers to serve as docents at the May 10<sup>th</sup> harvest.

9. **Other:** GMRI in partnership with NERACOOS, the NE Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, has a tide gauge at the Maine Maritime Museum. It is hoped that one can be placed in Sewall Creek in conjunction with additional conductivity monitoring to provide further data for both climate tracking and fishery monitoring purposes.

10. The next meeting is to be held April 24, 2025 at 6 p.m. in Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.