

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 15, 2025

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Carla Weeks, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Paul Schlein, Jenna Howard, Karen Robbins, Guest Abby Westberry, Nick Hoynes virtually

The meeting, held in person and virtually, was called to order by Phine at 5:30 PM.

Minutes: March Minutes provided by Abbie and Clarke were approved unanimously.

Mail: No mail to report.

Roadside Clean Up: Most commissioners will be participating in the roadside clean up event. Phine has the bags we need. Notices are out and Phine will put the sign up out this coming weekend.

Pesticide Survey: We met with NYU graduate student Nicholas Hoynes about language of the pesticides survey. It was decided to focus on prevalence of use in hopes to better understand what may be impacting our water system and our wells and groundwater. Length of the survey and using multiple choice responses, plus giving a time preview or target of 5 minutes was discussed. Jesse suggested health and safety questions could be asked as an additional survey to maximize participation. Nicholas will create a draft this week for us to consider.

SPCA Trail Work: May Trail Work day scheduled for May 18th at 1:00pm Rain or Shine. The public will be invited.

Road Signs: Phine went to Carrot Signs in person and confirmed our signs are not in process. She also contacted White Signs. Paul recommended Sunset Signs if another contractor is needed.

Celebratory Alewife Harvest and Alewife News: Celebratory Alewife Harvest and Alewife News: The Harvest will take place May 10 from 9-12. The Commission agreed to spend up to \$3000 for the e-DNA testing we'd like to do. Karen has been looking into further outside funding. [Manomet](#) will be helping to set up data loggers to continuously monitor salinity on both sides of culverts during the open water season. A tide gauge would be helpful and the organization NERACOOS feels this matches closely with their initiatives. We have learned that all climate change related funding has been frozen and we are unsure if this will impact our project. A King Tide project will seek Arrowsicians with waders for a nighttime measurement project this spring.

In general, Clarke will be setting up a volunteer calendar for counting fish and the count will continue all spring for the return of the alewives.

Packards Landing: The dock will be reinstalled by the end of the month hopefully to reopen the first week of May. May 17 will have a cleanup day that includes snacks. The LMF grant has still not been delivered.

Bioblitz: Dr. George Jacobson who did a study of marshes 30 years ago in midcoast Maine, including "Newtown Creek," responded to our inquiries saying he could not help us narrow down the location/record of that study. We will invite our local bird experts Jack and Don. We are considering the Newtown Marsh next in early June 7th with a rain date of the 8th, late July and September, details to be determined at our May meeting.

Water Quality and Litter Patrol: Phine and Karen will test the 13th and 27th of May. Litter patrol will start at the end of May.

Spring Email to Community: Each spring we could include something about cautioning drivers to "slow down for porcupines." Jesse will draft and Jenna will edit. Phine will send out to Irene.

Nature Notes: Carla has noticed blue birds and is seven months pregnant with a new human due June 12. Jenna and Phine and Jesse report lots of egg masses in ponds. Jesse is registering her vernal ponds with Audubon and reports an eagle flying low on Bald Head Road. Phine reports phoebes back on April 4th She reports 0 Carolina wrens this winter. The bridge osprey is back this month but isn't seen frequently. Karen thinks we have a nesting bald eagle on the Kennebec River side that may be competing with them. She reports the white dove is back near the bridge. Paul has seen no birds yet, and noticeably few mice since removing feeder.

Adjourn at 7:07. Next meeting is May 20th.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.