

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 20, 2025

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Carla Weeks, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Paul Schlein, Jenna Howard, Clarke Cooper, Karen Robbins, Guests Nick Hoynes (remotely), and Kyler Phillips from KELT and Abby Westberry in person

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

Minutes: April Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Mail: No mail to report.

KELT Conservation Kyler Phillips of KELT is studying wildlife and habitat benefits at tidal crossings in ten towns. He will work on 150 crossings in total with the goal by next September to complete a priority list. He asks the committee about the priority sites in Arrowsic. Road crossings at Mill Island Rd, Indian Rest Rd, Spinney Mill Rd, two on Rt 127 one next to Sirois Rd are identified. Fact sheets for each crossing will help identify and support potential local grant applications. Phine points him to an Erin Witham survey from several years ago.

Pesticide Survey: NYU graduate student Nicholas Hoynes joined to discuss the language of the pesticides survey. The group narrowed down to 9-10 questions for the data we want to collect and the time we want it to take. We will ask what pesticide is used, if folks know. Through this survey, the Commission could learn of the extent of pesticide use and how it might impact our environment and water system. The group reviewed the survey together and made some updates. Nick will send us an update shortly and we'll see him in Maine in June!

Bioblitz: We will host a bioblitz at Newtown Marsh next on June 7th at 1:00pm with a rain date of the 8th. Tides will be high at 10:13am and low at 3:36pm so we will go out at 1:00pm. Between Merlin and INaturalist and bird experts, we will record birds present using their songs. We will put out a call in the town email to meet at the end of Bald Head Rd wearing boots.

Schedule: Water Quality & Cleanup Some committee members are attending a training for water testing in Damariscotta. Upcoming testing dates: Karen and Phine will test May 27th, Clarke will test June 10 and Phine and Karen will test June 24th. SPCA Cleanup: Clarke will cover this weekend, Carla the 31st, Jenna the 7th, Phine will do the 14th, Jesse the 21st.

Events:

Roadside Cleanup: Almost all of 127, all of Bald Head, Indian Rest, Half of Old Stage was completed despite the rain!

Celebratory Alewife Harvest: Celebratory Alewife Harvest and Alewife News: The Harvest took place May 10 from 9-12 with very few fish.

Packards Landing: The dock is in and the May 17 cleanup day will happen May 31 from 9-2. The LMF grant has been received.

SPCA Trail Work: May Trail Work day took place May 18th. A tree was removed, a long waterbar was replaced, wood chips were replaced, road signs were put up. Multi generational helpers were involved and a good time was had by all!

Nature Notes: Phine noted last frost was April 10. Phine reports Warblers are here, Jenna and Carla report many winter moth caterpillars everywhere. Phine notices they like Maples but not Striped or Norway Maples. Jesse says last year they took all blossoms off blueberry bushes and apples. Jesse tried wrapping the trunks, especially of a cherry tree. Paul has seen incredible wildflowers including the fringed polygala on his road. Clarke encountered a snapping turtle on Bald Head Rd.

Other: The Alewife fund was gifted \$2000 last month. The Fish Commission did another round of e-DNA sampling (at 1am!) and conductivity plume testing. The second conductivity monitor and height gauge have been ordered. Some results are in from last winter's baseline testing showing brook trout.

Adjourn at 7:00. Next meeting is June 17th.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.