

Arrowsic Conservation Commission Minutes

June 17, 2025

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Clarke Cooper, Jesse McMahon, Karen Robbins, guest Nick Hoynes

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

Minutes: The May 27, 2025 amended Minutes were approved with much gratitude to Jenna.

Mail: Phine received notification of The Henry Grant of \$2000.00 to the designated Alewife Fund.

Pesticides Survey: Nick received comments on the draft survey. He will make the minor changes noted and provide the final draft for everyone to proofread. The pros and cons of different distribution dates were discussed and it was decided to make the final decision at the July meeting when it is expected that more Commissioners will be present. Notice publication methods and distribution points were identified including but not limited to: Monday Arrowsic News, Arrowsic Google Group, Arrowsic Facebook page, Town Hall, Swap Barn, Recycling Shed, the Arrow, a specific invitation to the Town email list...and reminders.

Bioblitz 2025: The first bioblitz was Sunday June 8th. Seventeen plant taxa were reported; ten were the same as observed in the original Jacobson and Jacobson study. Fourteen unique bird species were seen or heard. Five other animals were noted mostly beetles. The next session will be Saturday September 13 in the morning; the time will be dependent on the tide. Sunday will be the rain date.

Water Quality Monitoring: June 24 -Phine and Karen, July 8 - Clarke and Karen, July 22 – Phine. It was noted that last Tuesday the Secchi disk touched bottom and was still readable.

Sewall Pond Clean Up Schedule: Jesse June 21st, Paul June 28th, Clarke July 5th, Phine July 12th.

Nature Notes: Clarke saw a feeding frenzy of seals, eagles, ospreys, cormorants and gulls in front of his house. As energetic as it was it only lasted five minutes. Phine saw an indigo bunting on the 9th and first fireflies on the 5th. She doesn't think there are as many as in years past. Jesse has seen lots of Cold-country Caterpillar Hunters. Others have as well and hope the caterpillar hunters are eating the winter moth caterpillars that have denuded the deciduous trees. Nick has seen a lot of snakes, mostly garter and one milk snake. Paul noted the plant growth everywhere this year seems to border on the Amazon, especially observable to Paul and Mona in their vegetable and flower gardens. Note the height of the lupines in the photo attached, with just the flowers at least two feet long (he measured).



Next Meeting: July 15, 2025 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Robbins