

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 19, 2025

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Paul Schlein, Jenna Howard, Karen Robbins, Jesse Nankin McMahon

The meeting, held in person was called to order by Phine at 5:35 PM.

Minutes: July Minutes provided by Jenna were approved unanimously as amended.

Mail: We got two invoices for water testing: Invoice Number #10119811 bill dated July 16, paid \$85. Invoice Number #10204569 bill dated August 8 for \$85. Water quality numbers for June show 24 ug/L Phosphorus and Chlorophyl A at 4.3 ug/L.

Pesticide Survey: The survey is now available and over 50 households have responded: https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6nF7ICpiVCckqiy As of yesterday, we had sent to 360 (all town) emails and had 63 online responses. 0 paper copies have come in. We will close the survey Sept 15. We will send a town email for September 8. In the next few weeks, Jesse will post in Google group email and put up a Facebook post to drive some more traffic.

Winter Month Talk: In November, Tom Schmeelk, entomologist with the Forest Service will give a talk to answer the question around winter moth caterpillar control: *why are Georgetown and Phippsburg releasing a larvae that we aren't?* This will take place Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 6:00pm, and could invite other towns to join hybrid. We will also provide refreshments. Karen mentions fiberglass and tree wrapping as a preventative measure. Paul learned that tree injections are being used.

Fall field trip: Mill Pond Preserve? Squirrel Point? We will decide next month.

Bioblitz: Meet at the parking lot to Squirrel Point on Saturday, September 13th at 10:00 on the marsh; 9:59 is low tide on Saturday. The rain date will be Sunday the 14th.

Updates:

WaterWise Project: postponed until next year in hopes of future state funding.

Packard's Landing: there is an event this weekend.

Fish Commission: Continuing to improve woodland section of downstream from Seawall Pond, given sand buildup. Karen looking into upper and lower section best practice for resting pools using natural materials with local vegetation. Karen met with DMR to discuss these.

Water Quality and Litter Patrol: Phine will clean next weekend Aug 23, Clarke Aug 30, Jenna Sept 6, Paul Sept 13. Water quality testing: Phine and Karen for Sept 2 and Clarke for Sept 16.

Nature Notes: In July, Paul saw funnel weaver spider webs everywhere on several dewy mornings and saw how quickly they reacted to a touch to their web. Last month, Karen saw an armadillo in North Carolina, where an active range expansion program is ongoing. This month,

Phine went to Shin Pond and saw a dock spider who played dead. Jenna noted the dry month and Phine notes we are in a drought. Jesse notes the prevalence of Japanese beetles and winsome flies. She had a juvenile porcupine in the area for a few days and noted a tiny peeper on her Serrano peppers (pictured). A local family of turkeys has 13 poults has been seen in the Bald Head neighborhood. This week, Jenna saw a deer with three fawns--and a fourth nearby--plus a banded tussock moth caterpillar. Jesse notes jumping, flipping green caterpillars. Karen notes her dog and a local deer almost colliding. Phine saw three fireflies the night of August 1, way later than ever before.

Adjourn at 6:54. Next meeting is September 16.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.