

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 16, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order by Phine at 5:45 PM.

Minutes: August Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Mail: The E. coli count done in early August was less than 1. Invoice Number #10204699 was received.

Upcoming Winter Moth Talk: Jessica Weller of Georgetown joined virtually to discuss the Winter Moth event on November 12. The Georgetown Historical Society can stream on Zoom and seat plenty of guests. The two Conservation Commissions will put on this event together.

Pesticide Survey: We will send one more reminder in the weekly notice. We are seeking a login to Qualtrics survey data and will reach out to Nick.

Bioblitz: Phine, Karen, Paul, and David Dobbs identified 16 plant taxa and 7 animal taxa, plus fungus. They noted fewer plants than expected and two different species of the same dragonfly in iNaturalist. There is a curiosity about sweetgrass prevalence; Jacobson et al in their 1989 inventory of Maine salt marshes listed sweet grass, *Hierochloa edorata* as a common march plant and present in the Newtown Marsh, but we did not find any.

Water Quality & Cleanup: We are finished with water quality testing and cleanup for the season. One pair of kids' crocks remain. It was a good, very clean season!

Fall Field Trip: On November 2, we will go to Mill Pond Preserve out to the Point. There will be a rain date of November 9. Later, when there is more growth, we will go on an outing to view and discuss invasives.

Town Event on October 25: We will create a visual overview of what we do for a community event next month that includes the winter moth talk, water testing, bioblitz, pesticide survey, climate resilience, field trips. This event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Nature Notes: Arrowsic is in a severe drought along with much of Maine. Committee members are curious about the impacts on local tick populations. Jesse and Clarke noticed that even after an inch of rain, digging down produces dust. Jenna and Karen note flying ants hatching and woodpeckers. Jesse heard them two nights ago, along with lots of frogs. On the town marsh at the end of Rt. 127, cattails are already brown. Paul notes an endless monarch parade in their numerous gardenmilkweed, and deer have trampled many plants and eaten the milkweed tops. Tussock moths are competing with the monarchs for the milkweed leaves. Jesse notes aster everywhere.

Adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Next meeting is October 21st and there will be a Zoom training at the start of the meeting. Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.