

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 20, 2026

Present: Phine Ewing (Chair), Jesse Nankin McMahon, Jenna Howard, Clarke Cooper, Karen Robbins, Paul Schlein. Virtual guests were Jody Jones and Eloise Vitelli for the Energy Coaching portion.

The meeting was called to order by Phine at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: December Minutes were approved.

Mail: No mail this month.

Energy Coaching: Guest Eloise Vitelli will share her submitted comments to the [draft plans on energy coaching navigators from the Governor's Energy Office](#). Guest Jody Jones asked if the Selectboard, Resilience Committee and Conservation Commission would sign a letter together recommending implementation of the energy navigator program pilot program. We will send to our representatives plus the representative on the Appropriations Committee who oversees EUT funding, Rep. Brennan.

Pesticide Survey: Paul suggests we analyze the survey and the results. A town email, plus a summary can be shared in the April Arrow, the Arrowsic Google group, and highlights can be posted on Facebook. Paul will ask Nick if we could sort any information we may need using the data. Paul asks what info we should we provide to the town going forward such as a sustainability section on the town website, '*Aquifer, Soil and Biodiversity Protection Guide*' or '*Property Care Guide*' with online resources provided could be a place we direct interested residents. As a next step, the commission may outline risks such as leachability and share info about what pesticides are water soluble as well as what methods are healthier to pollinators and birds. Paul asks about the possibility of putting together an expert panel to discuss pesticide use and inviting the town of Georgetown next fall. He suggests speakers like Chip Osborne of Osborne Organics and Jay Feldman from Beyond Pesticides as he has seen them speak on this topic. As an immediate next step, Paul will create an outline for the Arrow article and webpage info for the commission to review.

New ACC Member: We discuss putting out an open call for a new member in the Monday email that includes what our charge is. Phine will share the language with the ACC by email.

Temporary Chair: Karen will serve as the chair in February. She will send a Zoom link and Jenna will set up town hall video and audio for the meeting.

Other: Seeing how high the road Rt 127 will be raised by MDOT, a conversation will be had at KELT Feb 4, because there was some concern from a resident.

Nature Notes: Karen locked eyes with a coyote in Phippsburg for about 20 seconds at 11am in the morning. Phine reports hearing a bobcat (after a goose honk) at the end of the winter solstice bonfire! Jesse reports no predator attacks on her chickens for several months. Paul

reports no mice this winter so far, others agree. Clarke notes there is an obese gray squirrel in his area and Jenna reported a rotund raccoon in the Newtown neighborhood.

Adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Our next meeting will be held February 17th. Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.