

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Feb 17, 2026

Present: Karen Robbins (Temp Chair), Jenna Howard, Clarke Cooper, Virtual: Paul Schlein, Jesse Nankin McMahon, Phine Ewing. Claire Enterline attended in person as a guest.

The meeting was called to order by Karen at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes: January Minutes were approved as amended.

Rt. 127 Road Planning: There is concern from residents about MDOT's plans for Rt 127 improvements. Claire Eterline discusses road elevation and culvert sizing issues.

There are concerns about the **road elevation plans.**

- The proposed elevation improvement is 3.9 feet above the highest astronomical tide (HAsT); that follows the Maine Climate Council's commitment to rising road infrastructure 2-4 feet in preparation for sea level rise. The issue is that HAsT doesn't include flooding, which is already occurring. We know the road floods about 2.5-3 feet over the road currently during spring flooding. Elevating 3.9 feet won't suffice.
- The [NOAA/NOS's VDatum model](#) falls apart for the lower Kennebec and doesn't include tide elevation seasonally and spring flooding/water height. Another model may be needed to accurately plan for the road design. Including storm surge and flooding is best practice.
 - While Maine is not elevating state roads to meet storm surge predictions, Mass and NH are by regulation.
 - Jesse asks how many feet the road rising might need to be. CoastWise, the Arrowsic Climate Plan, and the Maine Climate Council recommend that higher sea level rise scenarios be considered (like 6.5-8.8ft) for critical infrastructure, which this is.
 - GMRI is willing to talk to us about their modeling as they are doing with other communities.

There are concerns about ecological problems and public safety problems with the **culvert sizing plans.**

- At Arrowsic's Rt. 127 northern crossing, the current upstream channel width is 7.5 feet and downstream is 25 feet. The proposal for culvert width is 14 feet. That is 1.5 times, or 45%, smaller.
- At the Fisher Eddy crossing, The upstream channel width is 19 feet and 38 feet downstream; The proposed culvert width is 26 feet. That is 32% smaller than the downstream channel.

Discussion and next steps: The commission will write a letter asking for the opportunity to provide more feedback from the town. We can pass it along to the Governor's Office for DOT to have more engagement with our community. Clark moves that we put together a letter and ask

our representatives, other town committees, the fire department, and selectboard to sign on. All are in favor. Clark will draft this letter.

Budget Request: When Phine returns, we will submit.

New Member: We discuss putting out an open call for a new member in the Monday email that includes what our charge is. Phine has created a draft that will be edited. Paul notes good results from the recycling committee call when listing what the committee does. The committee will sign off on updated language.

Mail: No mail this month.

Pesticide Survey: This week, Paul will send the Arrow article with the update about the survey results. The commission will provide copy edits. He asked the Arrow for front page placement, but that will be an editorial decision. We will put this update up on our webpage and send traffic to the Arrow article from the Facebook page and other communications, all linking to the Arrow article.

Other/Energy Coaching: To discuss at the next meeting.

Nature Notes: Jesse hears bluebirds serenading every morning. Following up on last meeting's discussion, Karen has learned that it is not legal to feed deer at any time of year since 2016.

Adjourn at 6:41 p.m. Our next meeting will be held March 17.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.