

## ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 21, 2026

**Present:** Phine Ewing (Chair), Karen Robbins, Jenna Howard, Clarke Cooper, Keith Salcines. Jesse Nankin McMahon joined virtually.

The meeting was called to order by Phine at 5:38 p.m.

**Minutes:** February Minutes were approved as amended. Thanks to Karen!

**Mail:** No mail this month.

**Roadside Cleanup:** We will clean Arrowsic's roads this Saturday morning, April 25. We will staff town hall from 9:30-10:15 for folks to pick up materials. Karen will follow from 10:30-12:00 with her truck to collect all trash bags.

**Trail work:** There are at least a couple of trees that need to be removed from the trail. Chainsaw needed. We will lay chips on the first part of the trail. We will schedule trail work at SPCA for May 9th at 2:00. The rain date will be May 10th at 2:00. We will invite Arrowsic residents in a town email.

Vehicles are prohibited from the trails in all seasons and we may need a pond-facing sign due to snowmobiles. Karen suggests citing a state law on these winter signs as Phippsburg does. Example right.



**Water Quality Testing:** The lab emailed with new steps necessary to get water tested after 24 hours. Phine found that FedEx and UPS can do overnight delivery for about \$18 and we always get our samples to the lab next day. This will avoid us having to do additional acid-involved steps outlined. The commission will start testing for 2026 on Tuesday, May 19 at 8:30am. Clarke and Karen will go out. Phine will get the kit from Lake Stewards of Maine.

**BioBlitz:** We discuss several options: Fisher Eddy or a location where MDOT will be making improvements or the Karl property or Holt property as we understand they are doing long-term studies again. We will do the next bioblitz at the Kahrl property's Reskhegan Preserve in one habitat, the beaver pond and bog. We will make a proposal to Dylan and Andrew at KELT that includes a few canoes going in on Saturday, June 6th afternoon at 2:00. Ahead of that event, some members of ACC will meet at Saturday, May 9 at 6:30am before trail work to note the singing birds.

**Pesticide study:** Results were published in the Arrow and will discuss next steps at our meeting.

**Nature Notes:** Jesse and Pierce saw several clusters of salamander eggs and frog eggs in their ponds and report seeing a ruby-crowned kinglet. Karen counted 13 painted turtles at the Kahrl

property back on April 8. (Karen is wondering if our spring-fed ponds will be fed if we're in drought. She notes most of our area's recharge is supposed to be happening now with spring rain.) Clarke notes about a dozen turkeys around the yard and Jenna has seen them too. Cormorants are back on the river. Osprey are back on the bridge. Keith notes seven or eight spotted salamanders in their homemade pond. Phine notes phoebes were back April 1 and hazelnuts flowering earlier than last year, plus a lot of bluebirds, but no swallows. She notes that we had a frost today, 11 days later than last year's last frost. Clarke notes being short on goldfinches. Jesse says they are down the road at her house!

Adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Our next meeting will be held May 19th.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.