

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES May 19, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order by Phine at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes: April Minutes were approved unanimously. **Mail:** No mail this month.

Roadside Cleanup: 24 people joined us to complete the roadside town cleanup on Saturday morning, April 25. All of Arrowsic's roads were cleaned. Thanks to all community members who joined us!

Trail work: We removed fallen trees from the trail. We laid chips on the first part of the trail on Saturday, May 9th at 1:00, starting an hour early to beat the forecasted rain. 6 non-commission Arrowsic residents joined the Commission.

BioBlitz: Three members of ACC (plus one) met at Saturday, May 9 at 6:30am before trail work to note the singing birds. They recorded:

BOG AT ROAD

American Crow
Canada Goose
Black and White Warbler
Common Yellow-throat
Warbler
Blue Jay
Goldfinch
Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove
Northern Cardinal
Northern Chickadee
Nashville Warbler
Ovenbird
Pine Warbler
Red Breasted Nuthatch
Scarlet Tanager
Tufted Titmouse
Yellow-rumped Warbler

FIELD

Black and White Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay Brown Creeper
Canada Goose
Dark-eyed Junco
Goldfinch
Northern Chickadee
Ovenbird
Pine Warbler
Tufted Titmouse
White Breasted Nuthatch
Yellow-rumped Warbler

BOG AT DAM

American Crow
Canada Geese
Black-throated Green
Blackburnian Warbler
Black and White Warbler
Blue Jay
Common Yellow-throat
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Dark-eye Junco
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Greater Yellowlegs
Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove
Muskrat
Nashville Warbler
Northern Chickadee
Painted Turtles
Purple Finch
Warbler
Wood Ducks
Yellow-rumped Warbler

BioBlitz: KELT is open to commissioners going in to record on Saturday, June 6th afternoon at 2:00 for a BioBlitz with a few local experts. Karen will communicate one or more specific spots to the group before June; possibly Tars Mountain, the meadow, the bog, or particular areas of note for the stewards. She is in communication with Dylan and Andrew.

Water Quality Testing: The commission started testing for 2026 on Tuesday, May 19 thanks to Clarke and Karen. Clarke found that the secchi disk was visible to 2.98 meters and Sewall had a 102% oxygen level at the surface. Paul asked about the temperature which was 20.5° C today; and 17.6° C this morning. Phine got the kit from Lake Stewards of Maine today including total phosphorus levels and filters. Phine will test June 2nd; Clarke will test June 16th. The Commission will test for E. coli on July 28, 2026.

SPCA cleanup will start weekly this weekend; Commissioners will clean on weekends: Clarke May 24, Jenna May 31, Jesse June 7, Keith June 14, Phine June 21.

Invasives: Someone alerted us to a stand of possible phragmites in the marsh at north end of island. We would need landowner permissions to go on land. Then we would need to see if it is native. Phine let them know of these barriers but that we would keep an eye on this. Bath Forestry Committee News put out something about vegetative pests and Karen asks if we'd want to put something out to locals about this. Clarke is working on tearing out invasive bittersweet and burning bush at Packard's Landing. He is establishing a "zoo" where captive species can be identified for education. A large pile of Japanese Knotweed was left at turnaround at Mill Pond and a landowner asked if the ACC was responsible. Phine responded that we were not.

Pesticides: Paul considers his draft article an intro into the results for the Arrow for the community. Karen suggests a newsletter (3-5 page format) that outlines the top pests of concern to Arrowsic residents and offer alternative pest control methods for each species. Keith notes education that could prevent homeowner misuse would be helpful; especially around water. Paul suggests as a next step we could have a panel discussion in the fall. The commission would want to present a balanced approach to the conversation. Some ideas shared for a possible November panel are Jay Feldmen from Beyond Pesticides, Chip Osborne organic turf expert from Maine, Caleb Gossen MOFGA Organic Crop and Conservation Specialist, Someone from UMaine—Chuck Benbrook a national expert on pesticides, Someone from the Soil and Water District, Water Conservation, Cooperative Extension/Ag, Alison Kanoti entomologist at Maine Forest Service, possible health experts. Commissioners are asked to continue to brainstorm a list of potential panelists. Paul notes interest in Georgetown on this issue. There is a discussion around a need to ween away from the worst pesticides for water and health, the need to propose clear alternative solutions, and sharing that with survey findings of major uses of pesticides in Arrowsic. Motivators such as low-cost pest management and water supply risk for the community are addressed. Paul suggests keeping engagement up about pesticide education in upcoming Monday town emails and the newsletter, the Arrow issue in July, Facebook, and possibly the Google Group.

Nature Notes: Clarke notes 98-100° F temps in Portland today. Phine caught a Magnolia Warbler in her hand today. Paul notes Fringed Polygala is now out at Whitmore's Landing Road. Paul notes an Osprey and Crow chasing a Bald Eagle in Georgetown. Jesse was courted or mildly threatened by a male hummingbird. Jenna notes hummingbirds and owls and bull frogs taking over their small pond, and a lack of smaller frogs. Bears have been spotted in Arrowsic so Paul is not putting out his bird feeders.

Adjourn at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held June 16th.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.