

ARROWSIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES June 16, 2026

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

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

Minutes: May Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Mail: No mail this month.

Pesticides: Jody Jones from the Resilience Commission came to discuss what the conservation commission might suggest testing for after the pesticide survey. She met with Jessica Meeks, hydrogeologist for state of Maine and Carol White the hydrologist working with the Water Wise project. There will be about \$10,000 available for additional testing from the grant. She notes individual PFAS testing is about \$700 per. They found nothing in town well, and no coliform. A trace amount of PFAS was tested at fire station well. The commission asks if they've ever done a training with fire suppressants. Individual pesticide tests are just as expensive per pesticide. The group asks if Sewall Pond has ever been tested for PFAS. Karen notes the Fish Commission has discussed this. Karen asked what salt intrusion testing will be happening and if one-time salt intrusion will be done at private wells. Jody explains the sites including one possible well on IFW owned land where the camp burned down. Jody explains there are funds to test 5-6 spots. The 5-year project should map how salinity changes over time and overall water quality over the five-year period. Risks will be evaluated. Georgetown has three public wells including at their school and Reid State Park. Keith asks why focus on abandoned wells. Jody says there is not agreement. Jody will ask Carol about testing an in-use well or testing a body of water such as Sewall Pond. Keith will reach out to her explaining how his irrigation well will be regularly measured and tested, in case this would be helpful as it measures water use. Karen mentioned alewives could eventually be tested for PFAS. Jody asks what other locations we would want to explore for the interest in pesticides. Phine suggests asking if any homeowner participating in the well study is curious about getting their wells tested for pesticides. Jody could reach out to everyone who has signed up for well testing asking who would like it, who would be willing, who would rather not test for contaminants like pFAS, pesticides. Phine notes there were 18 pesticides listed in our survey. Jody asks for 3-5 suggestions from the ACC. We discuss:

1. PFAS is agreed upon.
2. Roundup—glyphosate.
3. Mosquito and tick sprays—permethrin. Keith will ask Modern Pest or Fox.

We will ask Paul to get back to us about the leachability of these contaminants and other ideas. Sampling will begin after the 4th of July.

Winter Moths: Karen brought photos of dead winter months and some ants taking them away. Keith did not have apple blossoms this year due to the winter moth caterpillars. Others say this year showed less defoliation. Karen noted the City of Bath will be injecting its ash trees with Mectinite™. Mectinite™ targets Emerald ash borer and Winter moth among other pests. The EPA Signal word is CAUTION, which indicates slightly toxic products as compared to WARNING or DANGER. The active ingredient is Emamectin Benzoate 4%.

Winter Moth Tape: A company in Canada, APT, has offered us 30 rolls of winter moth tape for free, in return for our reporting back on its efficacy. We could offer free tape to Arrowsic residents (and perhaps Georgetown residents, if there is enough left to share), in return for reporting how the tape holds up to weather conditions in this climate and if the tape is successful at protecting the trees. We will proceed and let Paul know.

Other: Jesse brings up a discussion of Microgrids, (there was a grant with a July 2nd deadline) and she is in communication with State of Maine and Island Institute teams who were involved with Eastport. She will also see if there would be another round of grantmaking. GMRI Chaz Van Dan could join to share her ideas and get lessons learned from city of Eastport, learning what has been done in small towns. Jody is happy to help. It is in line with climate action plan.

BioBlitz: There were 11 participants at the bog. Phine counted 243 observations (many duplicates) of which 43 were trees, 69 were herbaceous flowering plants, 36 moss, 12 mushrooms, and 80 animals.

For the next BioBlitz, we will go at 10:00 on August 23 to BioBlitz; Karen will invite the KELT team. Phine will invite Jack.

Karen suggests going once more and focus on another area such as Lost Pond or the ridge over Lost Pond. Clarke suggests going back to the same area we visited. Karen notes Andrew of KELT is interested in the lower wetland marsh vernal pool. Phine wonders if that is best done in spring. Jesse suggests a possible spring "Big Night" on the road there to see what is coming and going in early spring.

Water Quality Testing: Karen will test on the 30th, Phine has what we need. 14th Clarke will test. Phine will test on the 28th. Doug Sutor and Karen are going to sample invertebrates at Sewall Pond and the steam July 2-5, weather dependent. Karen notes we are working toward sampling the bottom, Jamie Deeds at DEP is giving samples from four ponds and we will learn how that works and do them with Bigelow Lab. (If they can not do so, there is no lab in Maine that can do that.) This is lead and aluminum to see how our phosphorus would respond. There is a ratio issue; pH lead to aluminum. There will be weekly fish monitoring this summer and some channel-digging out. This year there won't be fatal sampling unless by accident. We will use a bucket ariator. Last Monday, Karen noticed a fungus on both sides of dorsal fin of alewives exiting the pond.

SPCA cleanup Commissioners will clean on weekends: Phine has 20th for cleanup, Jesse will take June 27th, Clarke and Lisa will take July 4th, Paul the July 18th, Jenna July 25th.

Nature Notes: Jenna saw a baby fawn born yesterday early morning in the rain. Keith saw that last year in the flower beds! Daily, Jesse was serenaded by a winter wren with a most beautiful song. Karen heard that in Phippsburg. Phine notes hearing those when she first moved here. According to Phine, fireflies are back in the fields as of Saturday the 13th. Claire has seen these, according to Jesse. Keith sees them right around dusk. Karen got a nice photo of a chicken eating larvae. A Pheobe nest under the canoe at Keith's survived a canoe-move for our BioBlitz!

Karen's phoebe fledged last night. Keith, Clarke, and Jenna agree that there are more hummingbirds. Karen saw a Baltimore Oriole. Clarke and Phine and Karen saw Nancy Sferra's moth setup at the bog. She identified over 30 species, one that had only been reported in one other location in Maine.

Adjourn at 6:54 p.m. The next meeting will be held July 21st.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Howard.