

ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION
27 July 2023
Minutes from the Inaugural Meeting

Present:

Karen Robbins
Jeff Pinette
Mike McMahon
Jack Witham
Angel Braestrup (tardy)

Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk
Three members of the public

Barbara Boyce swore in the Commissioners and the meeting was called to order.

Meeting Schedule: First item on the agenda was the meeting schedule. It was agreed that the Commission would meet on the 4th Thursday of each month from January through June. It was further agreed that in November, the meeting would be on the third Thursday. Should specific issues with specific deadlines arise, the Commission will meet in other months.

Establishment of Terms: The Commissioners agreed that the first term schedule should be staggered so as to not have the whole Commission's terms end at the same time. It was further agreed that the first term schedule (with each Commissioner eligible to serve for a 3 year term at the end of this term)

Commissioner	1st Term Ending
Karen Robbins	August 1, 2024*
Jack Witham	August 1, 2025
Angel Braestrup	August 1, 2025
Mike McMahon	August 1, 2026
Jeff Pinette	August 1, 2026

Assignment of Roles: Under the enabling article, the Commission is to have a Fish Warden whose job is to serve as liaison to agencies, the Select Board, and others as needed. It also requires a representative from the Conservation Commission.

Karen Robbins reported that she had agreed to serve as the representative from the Conservation Commission at its latest meeting.

Jack Witham nominated Karen to be the Fish Warden for one year. Jeff Pinette seconded. It passed by unanimous consent.

* Karen Robbins has agreed in principle to serve a full three-year term after this initial term.

Karen proposed that Mike serve as Deputy Warden, responsible for shadowing Karen and learning the job. He agreed. Karen asked Jeff if he would serve as Deputy Warden for Field Work. He agreed. Karen asked if Angel would serve as recording secretary. She agreed.

The proposed assignment of roles was agreed to by unanimous consent.

Duties and Use of the Arrowsic Alewife Account overseen by the Arrowsic Conservation

Commission (ACC): Karen reported that because a number of the responsibilities of the Fish Commission have historically been the responsibility of the ACC, how these responsibilities may be shared or split was discussed at the recent ACC meeting.

- a. Water quality monitoring will continue to be the Conservation Commission's responsibility. Alewife monitoring will become the Fish Commission's responsibility.
- b. The ACC suggests that both commissions share the designated alewife account and made the following recommendation: Decisions to spend \$100 or less are allowed without conferring with the other Commission. Proposed spending greater than \$100 would need approval from both Commissions.

Mike moved and Jack seconded a motion to adopt the recommendations of the ACC as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Monitoring: Karen reported that two salinity recorders were going to be installed to establish baseline data for 2023.

Restoring stream habitat on the creek below the Rte 127 Culvert: The discussion turned to Karen's research into what kind of projects might reduce the encroachment of cattails on the stream and thus improve water flow and depth for alewife passage. Karen reported that she attended a workshop on Aquatic Organism Passage and ways to fund improving it. She also reported that she had been in touch with Mike Brown, the DMR representative to discuss options.

In response, Mike offered to further explore the expertise that might be tapped for completing the necessary environmental study. Jack offered to join Karen for any relevant future meetings and workshops to ensure that the workload was shared.

It was agreed that Karen, Jack, and Mike would continue to look into options for study, design, and financing of any stream restoration projects that would improve passage for the alewives, both returning adults and departing juveniles.

Other business and adjournment.

Mike moved that the meeting be adjourned and Karen seconded.