**Freeport Shellfish Conservation Commission**

**11/9/2023**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Sara Randall, Chad Coffin, Sarah Warren, Gina LeDuc-Kuntz, Nelson Larkins, Kap Wallingford, Michael Ashby, Charlie Tetreau (Marine Resource Officer)

Quorum achieved. Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

Sara Randall motion to approve minutes from the October meeting. Kap seconded. Gina abstained due to not being at the prior meeting. All in favor, minutes approved.

Marine Resource Officer Report:

Cove road dock being pulled in the next two weeks, need to get two boats off it. 1 inch conditional area opened back up. Survey ok’d by Town Finance, need to submit an invoice. Recompence is opening up (even beyond the bridge). Ended the season with 15 airboat complaints from 3 individuals.

Section 32-401; DMR asked us to remove the language about the depuration harvesting program because that is managed by the State. Questions about the potential impact of this. Committee sees no issue with removing that section.

Shellfish Committee needs to offer some dates to the Ordinance Committee. Charlie to send a date/time via email.

Discussion of ordinance changes related to Conservation Area and attempt to answer some questions from the workshop.

How long would a license last?

Answer: Annually

What if someone doesn’t do the conservation labor or abandons their conservation area with gear in it? How can we tell/what is the metric?

Answer: When they apply, they’re going to submit a plan that they are held accountable for. Who decides what is allowed? The State has guidelines and some experts disagree with some of the methodology.

Committee approves plans. Suggestion to list acceptable methods. Committee welcomes innovative and experimental methods. Suggestion to list unacceptable methods.

Apprenticeship program & language/definition cleanup:

Decision to ask the Ordinance Committee how to proceed with the changes we know we need to make and how to push them forward.

Question about whether these changes will change the overall number of licenses. Question about whether it should be a different cadence because of the need for preparation prior to May. Discussion of changing dates, potentially as early as February.

Decision that Sarah W and Chad will convene to make some draft ordinance changes for the committee to discuss next month.

Creation of agenda for next month.

Mike motion to adjourn, Kap seconded. Adjourned at 7:20