



TOWN OF FREEPORT
Shellfish Conservation Commission
Minutes – October 10, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

Members Present

Thomas Bennett, Chair
Jared Lavers, Vice Chair
Malcolm McIntosh
Sara Randall
Dale “Chopper” Sawyer
Megan Hudson, Secretary

Members Present

Chris Grimm

Staff Present

Charles Tetreau, Shellfish Warden

Call to Order

Thomas Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Minutes Review and Approval

After discussion, Sara Randall moved to approve the June 2019 minutes, seconded by Thomas Bennett.

Vote: All in favor (M. Hudson abstained)

After discussion, Thomas Bennett moved to approve the September 2019 minutes, seconded by Malcolm McIntosh.

Vote: All in favor

II. Agenda Items

1. Marine Officer’s Report

Charles Tetreau reported that harvesting has slowed down in the last month, the price is just over \$100/bushel. On October 3rd Freeport’s eighth grade class did a tide pool

exploration in Winslow Park. On October 16th the quahog study will check for mortality in Staples Cove. On October 20th at 1 p.m. at the end of Cove Road there will be another survey. On November 18th there will be the first Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group meeting at the Curtis Memorial Library from 4:30-7:30 p.m. On October 3rd and 6th Moody's did deprivation harvesting. The clean water account currently has \$26,500.

2. Draft Clammer Apprentice Program Discussion

Sara Randall further explained her proposed trial apprentice program. The Commission then took public comments.

Jesse expressed concern about the environmental impact of a new apprentice program and stated that the license price should be increased.

Cory Wentworth stated that the lottery is equal opportunity and that the apprentice program is not fair.

Mike Ashby voiced support for the apprentice program.

Chad Coffin thinks that the impact of the apprentice program has been overstated and that clamming has lost the culture/family element of the profession.

After discussion, Sara Randall moved to accept the modified apprentice program ordinance language and recommend it move forward, seconded by Thomas Bennett.

Vote: 2 in favor (T. Bennett, S. Randall) and 4 opposed (C. Sawyer, J. Levers, M. McIntosh, M. Hudson)

3. Discussion on a Weighted Commercial License Lottery

Discussion on proposed language for a weighted commercial lottery, giving additional opportunities for each previous year that an applicant had unsuccessfully applied.

Chopper Sawyer clarified that he would like the language to include additional lottery opportunities for each previous year that the applicant was unsuccessful, going back as far as the town had records. The Commission then took public comment.

Chad Coffin opposed the weighted lottery.

Rose expressed concern that student diggers were being left out.

After discussion, Megan Hudson moved to table a vote to get additional information from the town regarding its records of previous lotteries, seconded by Thomas Bennett.

Vote: All in favor

4. Use of Airboats

Chopper Sawyer presented a letter for discussion and approval that he would like to present to the town council on behalf of the Commission. The Commission then took public comments.

Mike Ashby updated the Commission on the current status of his airboat use.

After discussion, Tomas Bennett voted to table a decision on the letter to allow it to be typed and distributed ahead of the next meeting, seconded by Sara Randall.

Vote: All in favor

5. New Business

Sara Randall presented information from Dr. John Kraeuter expressing concerns over the methodology being used in the quahog study and the possibility of inaccurate results informing future Commission decisions. The Commission then took public comments.

Chad Coffin stated that he does not believe that the Commission should require conservation activities.

There was additional discussion about deprivation digs and a desire to create a procedure to ensure that people are uniformly notified.

V. Adjourn

Chopper Sawyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, seconded by Malcolm McIntosh.

Vote: All in favor





TOWN OF FREEPORT Shellfish Conservation Commission

To Freeport Town Council:

A local town harvester recently purchased an airboat for clamming purposes. Shortly after its use, complaints started coming in steady. The use of airboats is very prevalent in neighboring communities that harvest shellfish. Changes in harvesting laws, a lack of traditional access, and the town's lack of providing deep water access has resulted in many fisherman and harvesters considering the use of an airboat to meet a harvesters needs on a daily basis.

Hopefully going forward things will settle down. That being said, the Freeport Shellfish Commission stands begin all boat owners, including the ones that choose to use an airboat.

Thank you,

Dale Sawyer
Freeport Shellfish Commission Member

