Town of Freeport

Shellfish Conservation Commission

April 13, 2023, 6:30 pm

Freeport Town Hall

Present: Chad Coffin, Sara Randall (remote) Charlie Tetreau, Sarah Warren, Nelson Larkins, Gina LeDuc-Kuntz

Update from Marine Resource Conservation Officer (Charlie):

Airboat stakeholder group is deciding whether to vote on a decibel level (90 or 75) or continue to meet for 2 years. The group ended up voting to extend for 2 more years. Gulf of Maine Research Institute is looking for volunteers to log data about the coast in Freeport- Charlie to send info around. There was a spill of unknown origin, testing resulted in the understanding that it was a small spill but cause not determined. One license is going to be available due to a harvester turning 65. Decent turnover expected in the next decade due to demographic shift.

Discussion of DMR representative visit. Discussion of letter from DMR about what is legally allowed related to conservation areas.

Per Charlie we can either give the proposed ordinance for town council, setting aside the conservation area section or we can work closely with the DMR to get the ordinance closer to what they deem legal. Discussion of the ways that our proposal is different than the way DMR perceives it. We need to make an argument about leasing versus licensing. A lot of this is legacy law about ownership rights. Our proposal is more similar to licensing an area to specific individuals. Discussion of leveraging the town’s resources, getting this on the radar of the town council. Decision to draft statement of purpose to help provide context to the Council for changes. Vote to take place at subsequent meeting.

Question about ordinance, clarifying student enrollment rule. Recommendation to edit section 32-601, section A, paragraph 3 about student licenses, to make the clause broader for equity purposes. Gina motion to change the language about student licenses to prove enrollment in college or post-secondary education and be between the ages of 14 and 26. Chad seconded. Vote unanimously passes. Charlie to make proposed edits and re-post ordinance with changes for the public prior to next meeting.

Discussion of whether we want to consider PFAS sampling. Agreed to table it at this time.

Downeast Institute received a grant to do experiments for an intertidal nursery and would like to have a site in Freeport. Commission asked for a more detailed proposal.

Discuss adding to next agenda to vote on the 5 sets of previous minutes provided by Gina.

Chad motion to adjourn. Nelson seconded. Adjourned at 7:43 pm