**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**Monday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. [via Zoom]**

I  **Call to order and welcome at 6:36 pm**

II  **Determine quorum—**Members Present: Kathy Gravino\*, Aria Eee\*\*, Roger Bogart\*,

Ruth Indrick\*, Nancy Kinner\*, Sue Shade\*\*, Jessica Weller\* [\*Member/\*\*Associate Member]

 Select Board Member: Bronwen Tudor

Guests: Jon Hentz, Julie Pankey

III         **Minutes from January 9, 2023 meeting were approved as written**

IV       **Public Comment**

 Welcome Jon Hentz, Georgetown Shellfish Warden

Jon shared the Georgetown Shellfish Committee’s concerns about the over harvesting of shellfish in Reid State Park. They have written a proposal that they are hoping will be made into a Reid State Park policy. The proposal states that: “*Any live marine resource, harvested within the confines of Reid State Park, cannot be sold.*” They hope that this policy will help to save the marine resources within the park. It was asked if this proposal will need legislation and was suggested that state representative Allison Hepler be contacted.

Jon asked that members of the commission take time to think it over and decide at a future meeting if the Georgetown Conservation Commission will support the Georgetown Shellfish Commission’s efforts to prevent the sale of marine resources harvested in Reid State Park.

V        **Budget for 2023** (Welcome Julie Pankey, Financial Advisory Committee Member)

 Julie shared our existing budget and the year-to-date actuals. She has

asked that the commission go through our budget line by line and decide what changes we want/need to make. The deadline for the new budget proposal is March 13th.

It was suggested that we obtain the most recent budget for this year from Mary McDonald and create an additional column of “Expected Expenses” for this current year (which ends June 30th) to get a better picture of what our needs are. The Conservation Commission will share projected expenses for next year and discuss the proposed budget via email. The final budget proposal will be voted on at our next meeting on March 13th.

VI **Old Business**

1. **2023 Calendar of Events for Conservation Commission**

Kathy and Sue created a second draft of the Conservation Commission calendar in a monthly format. The new format is very easy to read. A motion was made to accept the 2023/24 Georgetown Conservation Commission calendar, understanding that it is *subject to change*. The motion was approved.

1. **Level 3 Energy Grant Update**

The First Energy Grant Update will be this Thursday, February 16th on ZOOM. This will be a great way for the community to hear about the $39,000 Energy Grant and what it entails and the timeline for the project. The RFP draft for the Level 3 Energy Audit is almost complete and will be sent out next week.

1. **Trail Maintenance Update**

No new updates on trail maintenance, a team will go out once the snow

melts

1. **Building Stronger Community Series**

The Building Stronger Community Series is one of the many benefits we receive for being a member of the Community Resilience Partnership. The next video is on February 14th at 10am and the topic is*: Efficiency Maine Energy Initiatives and Services for Municipal Energy Upgrades*. Jessica has watched one of the videos in the series so far and will be attending tomorrow’s webinar. She suggested that it might be nice to let people in our community know about this video series when we don’t have so much going on.

1. **Potluck—Saturday, February 18th from 12pm-2pm**

Nancy has two organic turkeys to cook, cider, soap, festive napkins and coffee supplies. Conservation members volunteered for set up at 11am and clean-up after 2pm. Age Friendly will be there at 11:30 to set up their table and Jessica will bring games to play. We will do another media blast later this week.

1. **Big Night—ZOOM Training on Sunday, March 5th at 3pm**

We are still waiting to hear from Greg Leclerc at the state about registering our four official sites, Jessica followed up but has still not heard. A ZOOM training will take place on Sunday, March 5th at 3pm to train new volunteers and teach our previous volunteers how to take data. An article was submitted to the Feb/March *Tide*. Jessica plans to visit the school in early March to get the kids excited about Big Night. An email was sent out to last year’s volunteers and people are excited to help again this year. After the potluck this weekend we will start advertising on the usual channels.

1. **2nd Owl Prowl Reflection**

The 2nd Owl Prowl was postponed until last night (Sunday the 12th) due to high winds. There were 11 people in attendance which was great for Super Bowl Sunday. It was a successful outing, and they all heard an owl at the end of the prowl!!! It would be great to keep this as an annual tradition.

1. **Storyboards**

The Select Board passed a warrant last week and so the Conservation Commission’s reimbursement for the additional supports for the Storyboards should now be paid.

VI        **New Business**

**Ipcar Reserve Survey Plan**

Kathy will reach out to John Wood to see if and when he can survey the Ipcar property. Next year’s budget will need to reflect this expense if it is going to be done next year.

VII  **Updates**

1. **The Stellar Sea Eagle is Back!**

Everyone shared their eagle stories

1. **Reid State Park**

Reid State Park is closed to both pedestrians and cars for up to 9 Weeks as they work on the bridge, new toll booth, take down trees, bury wires and work on other projects.

VIII      **Next Meeting: Monday, March 13th 2022 at 6:30pm**

IX       **Meeting Adjourned at 7:52pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Weller