**ORDINANCE**

**Duties and Functions of the**

**Georgetown Conservation Commission**

*Adopted June 15, 2024*

**Section I.** **Authority**

The Georgetown Conservation Commission (also known as “The Commission”) is an official agency of the Town, appointed by and responsible to the Select Board. The purpose of the Commission is to educate the community about local environmental issues, advise local officials on environmental issues as requested, and organize initiatives that address community environmental concerns. The Commission shall provide leadership in the protection, use, and conservation of Georgetown’s natural resources. The Commission is established under Title 30-A Maine Revised Statutes Annotated #3261.

**Section II. General Provisions**

1. The Select Board shall appoint at least three but not more than seven members of the Commission. Members shall be appointed for terms of one, 2, or 3 years, such that approximately one-third of the members’ terms will expire each year. Members shall serve until the appointment of their successors. Associate members may be appointed by the Select Board to assist the Conservation Commission in performing its functions. Associate Members are nonvoting members. Their terms of office shall be for one, 2, or 3 years.
2. The Commission shall annually elect a Chair and a Secretary from among its Members. The Chair shall determine the meeting dates of the Commission and shall preside at its meetings and at any public hearings that the Commission conducts. The Secretary shall prepare minutes of the Commission’s meetings and shall keep records of its meetings and activities. The Chair shall prepare each year a draft Annual Report to the Select Board of the Commission’s activities for approval by a vote of the Commission. The Commission shall deliver the Annual Report to the Select Board within 120 days after the Annual Town Meeting.
3. The Commission shall have the following duties:
4. Prepare and maintain an index of the natural resources of the Town of Georgetown, including marshlands, swamps, and other wetlands, the Resource Protection District as defined in the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and lands in which natural resources are protected by easements.
5. Catalogue and monitor, as possible, current and emerging environmental conditions and threats, which may include but are not limited to the following:
6. The water quality of streams, ponds, and ground water;
7. Invasive species, wherever they may be found;
8. Vernal pools, wherever they may be found.
9. Seek to coordinate the activities of conservation bodies organized for similar purposes that operate within Georgetown.
10. Recommend to the Select Board, or any Town Committee or Board, or to any body politic or public agency of the State, a program for the better protection, development, or use of the lands described in Section 2.C.(1) above.
11. Powers of the Commission. The Commission may:
12. Advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets which it considers necessary.
13. Offer community educational programs and workshops.
14. Have the care and superintendence of lands acquired by the Town for the use and development of their natural resources, specifically including the Ipcar Natural Preserve in Five Islands and the Round the Cove Forest and trail connecting the Georgetown Historical Society property at 20 Bay Point Road with the Newman Sanctuary of the Maine Audubon Society.
15. Negotiate for the acquisition by the Town of land in Georgetown for the purposes set forth in this section, with the prior approval of the Select Board and a Town Meeting.
16. Administer the expenditure or use of any gifts directed to the Commission by the grantor or the Select Board, for those purposes subject to the terms of the gift.
17. Participate in regional and statewide efforts that provide mutual benefit for the Town’s conservation goals.
18. Apply for grants that further the conservation work of the Town with prior approval from the Select Board.

**Section III. Severability**

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, such decision shall not be held to invalidate any other section or provision of this ordinance.

**Section IV. Effective Date**

The effective date of this Ordinance shall be the date on which it is enacted by a Town Meeting.