**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Town Council Chambers, 30 Main Street, Freeport, Maine

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**In attendance:**

Mandy Macpherson (Co-chair), Bob Stevens, Jim Reinertsen, Megan Shore, Susana Hancock, Kristen Dorsey, Meddy Smith (Sustainability Coordinator) Eric Smith (Town Council Liaison)

**Minutes – the meeting was recorded and can be viewed on youtube** [**here**](https://youtu.be/YxHRCHrHwqA?si=EVW2pZbBvSmgKpqC)**.**

* **BEGIN MEETING** 6:30 PM
* **APPROVE MINUTES:** 5 min

Susana made a motion to approve the Minutes of 2/12/24, Jim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (6/0)

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT CLIMATE PLAN:** 30 min

FSAB members invited attendees to offer feedback on the draft plan and materials.

* Bill Rixon commented about the Fossil Fuels Non-proliferation Treaty passed by the Maine legislature. He noted that this treaty is valuable because fossil fuels touch every part of our economy and politics and we all have to be active in the transition to renewable sources of energy. He proposes that FSAB consider adding a resolution in support of the treaty to bring to Town Council and that the Plan include a statement around the fact that this municipal plan is only one step, and there are other ways we need to support the move away from fossil fuels, such as the Treaty. He noted that it would be valuable to have the Plan explain that there are actions at the State and Federal level for our collective success.
  + Susana noted that FSAB discussed the treaty months ago, in another conversation with Bill, and she can work on bringing it forward for the Board to consider.
* Alex Abott commented that he would like to see an action that centers around upgrading impounded stream crossings. These infrastructure upgrades not only support wildlife habitat and connectivity, but also make crossings safer and less likely to be damaged during storms. There is state funding, now through DOT, available up to $200,000/per crossing that Freeport can apply for (and has used 2 in the past). He suggested an action could center around allocating funding for match to leverage this state funding.
  + Jim noted that this action also ties into the Hazard Mitigation Plan since it relates to public safety.
* Chalmers Hardenbergh suggested that while he doesn’t have any quarrel with the content of the actions, FSAB should focus in on a select few actions and emphasize a sense of urgency and collective action. He suggests a single priority to create a sense of urgency and make the plan more actionable. He is concerned that without more prioritization in actions, the Town staff/boards will not be able to implement the Plan successfully and community members may not be bought in because the plan is so diffuse in nature. He suggests the Plan has one main objective this year and the Town makes sure that is accomplished above all the others. He suggests the priority at this time be preparing the town for the crisis because it has visible local impacts. He also suggests amending the narrative to communicate urgency and also to create an action to develop a town-wide notification systems for natural disasters/climate emergencies.

FSAB members discussed how the goal of resiliency in the Climate Plan has overlap in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Members discussed how the Plan can be organized and presented so that implementation priorities are clear. Jim noted that he may not go so far to pit the goal of resiliency against the goal of mitigation, but suggests that there is an opportunity to make sure that implementation is centered around the 2 simultaneous core goals. In this way we could make sure we stay balanced and focused on the true intention of this effort (mitigation/adaptation). Kristen noted that we should be mindful of our towns limited capacity but not let the assumption of limited capacity stop us from trying to do what we need to get done. Chalmers noted in response that he agrees and would like to see that sense of urgency highlighted in the action language itself and the Town’s year one plan.

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN NEXT STEPS:** 10 min

Meddy let the Board know that she met with Sophia and Caroline to get their input on the implementation table. That conversation, and what attendees mentioned tonight, make it clear that we are balancing priorities based on the impact and what we need to accomplish (our goals/the science) and what the Town can accomplish. This balance is qualitative in the timeline and urgency level. She noted that staff have recommended changes to the Table in the timeline criteria and most of the roles (to better reflect town admin and operations) as well as suggesting several actions are split in two. Other suggestions include:

* Changing recycling downtown action to an action focused on recycling/reuse education. Mandy noted that education makes sense as a first step with carrots and sticks both ways. Some businesses may want to even take this on.

The Board discussed the draft of the ‘building momentum’ action list meddy put together, including actions for the Town and FSAB that could lay the foundation for implementation and provide community resources while organizing resources for specific action implementation. Mandy noted that it would be valuable to see how these actions are connected to the plan, so people can understand the actions are moving forward. This can be a tool internally and externally. Mandy noted that it would be also important to note the cost of inaction as paired with urgency/priority ranking – there are consequences to not taking action.

Meddy imagines a gantt chart for actions that lays out the sequence for implementation. That would be an internal tool that shows the ‘waterfall’ for how actions are connected over time. Kristen noted that this would type of tool would model the idea/practice of rethinking systems and processes in order to address climate change – because that is what we all need to do in order to see real change.

Mandy asked Meddy to clarify the term ‘Sustainability Lending Hub’ and it is a tool lending library/library of things. Meddy clarified that the action intention is for a broader lending library but also a hub for repair events and a more general community resources. Mandy noted that implementation may be a challenge due to space constraints, and she’s seen other communities have success, but they had universities or other resources to support. Members noted that the Transfer station would be the ideal location for this type or source because of space, staff, centrality, etc. Mandy noted that the artist in residency idea would fit well at a transfer station. Megan noted that sharing library idea was also mentioned at the housing trust focus group and that there is an opportunity to connect policies with buildings and sharing regarding how we use resources and build a broader mindset.

The group discussed the potential of adding a callout for organizations in town working on sustainability, such as FCAN. Bob noted support for the inclusion of FCAN as a prominent and active resource in town working directly on supporting community members with sustainability. Other FSAB members noted that including one callout, or even a whole list, could be a challenge because you will always leave someone out. There may be ways to frame it that is inclusive, but there are so many groups doing work that intersects with sustainability and resilience.

* **ADJOURN BY 8:00 PM:**