



# **TOWN OF FREEPORT**

## **Social and Racial Equity Committee**

### **Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

**Beginning at 6:00PM**

**Town Hall Conference Room  
30 Main Street in Freeport, Maine**  
Virtual: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89720249161>

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Continuing discussions:**
  - a. Review and discussion of meeting with FCS Director Sara Lundin (Mari and Brian)**
  - b. SREC Organization and Structure**
  - c. Follow-up regarding the Indian Statue**
- 3. New business**
  - a. SREC's Role in Housing and Accessibility Issues.**
  - b. Brief Review of Freeport Comprehensive Plan 10/7 Environment Workshop**
- 4. Adjourn**

**Requesting Reasonable Accommodation (& ADA Notice)**

Please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (207) 865-4743 or email [swilson@freeportmaine.com](mailto:swilson@freeportmaine.com) prior to scheduled meetings or events to discuss auxiliary aids or services needed to participate in Town activities.

The Town of Freeport is an equal opportunity employer and service provider that celebrates diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive environment for our employees and those we serve.

**Social and Racial Equity Committee**  
**Minutes from October 23, 2024 Meeting**  
**6:00 pm, Town Hall**

- Present:
  - SREC members present: Brian Burwell, Linda Berger, Mari Miya
  - Town Officials: Sophia Wilson
  - Members from the public: Howie Berger, Chalmers Hardenburgh
- Continued Discussion
  - Mari and Brian reviewed their meeting with Sara Lundin of the Freeport Community Services. The goal of the meeting was to better understand Town and FCS policies for emergency support and services for those in the community. They discussed the current growing need and enhanced resident's activity at the food pantry. FCS continues to be strong financially. The Town also continues to give financial support.
  - The Police Department has an Alternative Response Program Caseworker, Glenn Tatro, to assist with individuals in crises ie. mental health issues. He has had over 500 contacts this year.
  - Sophia spoke about the concept of Community Paramedicine. We will have a new position based out of the Fire Department that is designed as a hybrid of community paramedic, crisis intervention, and general assistance administrator.
    - Community paramedicine is a healthcare model that allows paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to operate in expanded roles by assisting with public health and primary healthcare and preventive services to underserved populations in the community. The goals are to improve access to care and to avoid duplicating existing services. Some rural patients lack access to primary care and use 911 and emergency medical services (EMS) to receive healthcare in non-emergency situations. This can create a burden for EMS personnel and health systems in rural areas. Community paramedics can work in a public health and primary care role to address the needs of rural residents in a more efficient and proactive way. (see <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/community-paramedicine#definition>)
  - Discussion continued regarding emergency housing needs for our citizens. Tedford Housing has limited space which is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The question is what happens to those who get turned away. Sophia explained that the town issues are at emergency and transitional levels. State policies address general assistance.
  - The question of property taxes and the inequities of the assessments. Older homes often are owned by the more senior residents. Many of these homeowners cannot afford the property taxes. Are there adjustments that might be made beyond the current rebate program which may not be enough for some individuals?
- Continued discussion about the future of the Social and Racial Equity Committee

- Those members present are interested in keeping the group as an ad hoc committee. How to increase membership is a top concern.
- How do we stay relevant? What are the issues we should tackle? Discussed exploring emergency housing needs for Freeport residents and the possibility of looking to neighboring towns for support of regional effort.
- Next meeting (and the meeting in December) falls adjacent to the holiday. We will need to move the meeting. It was suggested that we move it to Thursday, November 21.
- Sophia will prepare the agenda for the next meeting and make sure that the date is adjusted.
- Adjourned at 7:45pm