

Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board: Agenda 2/14/2022

Location: Town Hall - Conference Table Room

• **Begin meeting 6:30pm**

• **Approve minutes from 1/3/21 meeting:** 5 mins

MOVED AND SECONDED: To approve the Minutes of 1/24/22 (/)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (Yes)(Nays)

• **LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS:** 10 mins

Follow up discussion on Energy Utilities and Technology info from 1/24 - EUT

Carryover Bill details and EUT Workload in [FSAB folder](#)

-[SAFE CITIES](#) constituent email sent to Jake

• **Freeport Downtown Vision - Design Week - <https://www.freeportdowntown.me/> :** 10 mins

Thursday, February 3 - Monday, February 7, 2022

• **Update from Freeport CAN:** 10 mins

Results of January 20th meeting and since

• **Community Resilience Partnership:** 10 mins

 List of Community Actions_2021-12-01_4.xlsx

• **Lecture Series:** 15 mins

Flyers can be posted on cable. Caroline can get the specifications for us.

February 17th: Smart Growth with Kristina Egan. Freeport Downtown vision?

March 14th: Carbon emissions, Climate Action Plan with Susana Hancock and panel. Finalize who will be on the panel, gather bios, lecture summary etc. to create flyer and advertise.

April 11th: Sustainable Seafood with Barton Seaver and Emily Selinger.

May 9th: Food waste, composting (and EPR packaging bill?) – Susanne Lee from UMaine Orono who will speak about food waste. Chrissy Adamowicz from NRCM- update on the Extended Producer Responsibility law signed by Gov Mills last legislative session. Tyler Frank from Garbage to Gardens on composting

- Survey to residents about composting? Special pricing on Compost bins with flyers for Transfer station, Flyer and bin for town hall?

• **EV & SOLAR:** 10 mins

Work on ordinance for EV chargers in public & private parking. FSAB favors more.

Josh/Caroline asking local businesses if they'd be interested in sponsoring an EV charger.

- **Per Tax assessor on Freeport solar panel data**

• *Solar properties are valued and can be exempted according to state law by the local Assessor based on its status on April 1 of each year.*

• *Properties are not broken down into commercial v. residential, although a different regulatory structure kicks in if a project is more than 5 megawatts in size. Most installations in Town are of the single family service-type. We have notified the public via announcements at the Council level, by the Town Manager's bulletin, by the Town*

website and by mailers that we have sent out. In addition the local solar contractors use this exemption as a selling point, so pretty much all users are aware of it.

- As of this year's tax commitment, our office received 117 applications for exemption. We maintain an open file for applications as they come in to our office, and have 15 more submitted so far to add for the coming tax year.
- The local assessor reports the exemption and valuations to the State on its Municipal Valuation Return. The benefit to the town is that it is reimbursed for 50% of the revenue lost due to the exemption, which will be \$16,500 this year.

• **EPR, WASTE, RECYCLING, COMPOST:** 10 min

Sewer department email - planning upgrade to facility

information about 2 remaining silver bullets from Adam Bliss:

Pick up times are: Mid-morning, usually between 9 and 10 a.m., but the schedule is determined by the hauler.

When they are full: Usually before pick-up, but it greatly depends how well, if at all, cardboard boxes are broken down. West Street is hauled four times per week, and Hunter Road is hauled three times per week. We hauled West Street five times per week during the holidays, including adding a second container.

Weights: 0.5 to 1 ton.

Contamination: As of June 2021, ecomaine only reports contamination levels above 25%. The Recycling Containers never exceed the 25% threshold, and the containers' estimated contamination is between 5 and 10%.

Options for adjusting pick up times: Limited because of haulers' abilities and shortage of Class B licensed drivers. We have inquired about weekend pick-ups, but we received a firm no.

Maine Waste Diversion Grant [Maine grants website](#)

Quick 5 min update if time available and anything to report:

• **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

Forecaster Articles: possible topics/writers. 500-600 words.

Town of Freeport Municipal Bulletin & Webpage: Mandy/Cecilia - Inquire about button on the town home page for easier navigation. Added "Links" section for FSAB lectures on YouTube. Add "Tips" section. Other?

• **Tree Task Force meeting**

• **Seeking funding from TC** for [Climate Action Plan](#) and for part-time [Sustainability Coordinator](#)

Adjourn by 8pm