

Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board: Agenda 2/28/2022

Location: Town Council Chambers Town Hall

- **Begin meeting 6:30**

- **Approve minutes: 5 mins**

MOVED AND SECONDED: To approve the Minutes of 2/14/22 (/)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (Yes) (Nays)

- **Budget: 10 mins**

Vote on allocating funds for purchase of compost bins to provide discounted bins: In 2021 FSAB allocated \$800 dollars for reducing the price of composters from \$55 to \$25 allowed for 26 discounted bins (an additional ordering of 20 bins).

MOVED AND SECONDED: To approve allocation of FSAB funds (/)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (Yes) (Nays)

Discuss use of remaining funds - school grants, refreshments needs for in person lectures, etc

- **Tree Task Force update: 5 mins**

- **Town Council: 5 min**

Funding for Climate Action Plan and part time Sustainability Coordinator

Discuss advocating that the TC vote for town to divest from fossil fuels in its investments. Vote to support/not support/abstain. How to communicate to TC if in support of?

- **Comprehensive Plan update: 5 mins**

Cecilia report on any Building Permits data. Opportunities for FSAB involvement with survey.

- **Lecture Series: 15 mins**

***March 14th:** Carbon emissions, Climate Action Plan with Susana Hancock and panel. Or Susana's work and someone connected with PMA show Northern Triennial? Finalize who

***April 11th (or around or on Earth Day 22nd?): Event TBD,** possibly coordinate with FCAN action groups and Downtown Vision Project Open House #2?

May 9th: Food waste, composting, and EPR packaging bill – Susanne Lee from UMaine Orono-food waste. Chrissy Adamowicz from NRCM- update on the EPR law. Tyler Frank from Garbage to Gardens on composting. (Compost bins/flyers -Transfer station, flyer/bin-town hall? Survey to residents about composting?)

June 24th: Sustainable Seafood in association with Freeport Oyster Festival with Barton Seaver (confirmed) and Emily Selinger (awaiting response).

- **EV & SOLAR: 10 mins**

Ken with new oyster bar on maine street is interested in putting in chargers looking for help/rebates - also putting in water bottle filling stations

- **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 into 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

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.

- **Community Resilience Partnership:** 10 mins

 **List of Community Actions_Focus_Areas_V2.xlsx** Add FCAN column?

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

- **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- Send to mailing list? - letter to senators Collins and King on passing climate provisions in Build Back Better. *At the center of its climate provisions, as [passed by the House](#), are tax credits that make it cheaper to build solar, wind, nuclear and other low-carbon energy sources. The federal government would provide subsidies for consumers buying electric vehicles. Electric heat pumps — energy-efficient alternatives to traditional air conditioning and heating — would also be cheaper. And the bill would improve the infrastructure that enables those clean energy initiatives, funding more charging stations for electric vehicles and improving electric grids to support more solar and wind power.*

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

Webpage & Town of Freeport Municipal Bulletin: Mandy/Cecilia - Added Tree Task Force. Future button on home page for a sustainability page, but not a "board" page

FCAN - Discuss sharing 2021 FSAB Review sheet

Adjourn by 8pm