

FSAB Minutes
January 24, 2022

Meeting Called to Order 6:36

Members Present: (in person) Kristen Dorsey, Mandana McPherson, Valy, Josh Olins, Cecilia Smith; (remotely) Howie Berger

Absent: Susana Hancock

Guest: Bob Stevens

• Approve minutes from 1/3/21 meeting:

MOVED AND SECONDED: To approve the Minutes of 1/3/21 (Dorsey/Olins)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Yes) (0 Nays)

• Legislative Update:

Melanie Sachs - Freeport Representative, serving on Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

Most bills are carry-overs awaiting mostly technical fixes. 17 bills carried over, still broadly -worded drafts. Several have to do with transmission lines, project which still in limbo.

Most interesting for Freeport -

-LD1913: impact of policies on low income stakeholders re: electricity costs. Creating a stakeholder advisory group.

-LD 1894 Broadband: allow communities to own/co-op broadband infrastructure.

-A Transportation Road map in the works from the Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future, which will be meeting with her committee.

-Melanie's 'personal' project in process is #1694 "Land Bank" bill for tax acquired properties. Freeport can access Federal funds if we develop this structure. Obsolete, unwanted parcels can become green space or affordable housing. Much bipartisan support as well as Realtors / Conservation groups.

Sarah Woodbury - Director of Advocacy for Defend our Health (<https://defendourhealth.org/>). (Portland based non-profit, presence in D.C. also)

2 bills on PFAS = low income equality for access to safe drinking water:

LD 1875: (not so much interest to Freeport) Juniper Ridge is the state owned landfill in Old Town, required to pre treat effluent > Penobscot River > tribal nations impact

LD 1911: Bio solid wastewater (containing PFAS) no longer allowed to be used on farmland ; now being sent to compost facilities. Require compost to meet same screening standards as sludge; likely to have both completely banned, eventually.

LD 1891: well water abatement program, funding through Maine Housing Authority for abatement costs. Requesting that this almost depleted fund be refunded. Access to clean drinking water. DEP currently paying for the testing.

-Last session, Maine banned use of non essential PFAS by 2023- first legislation of this kind in the world.

Beth Ahearne - Director of Government Affairs for the Maine Conservation Voters (<https://www.maineconservation.org/>)

So much progress under this administration, especially through an equity lense:

- LD 1639 Out of State Waste Loophole, huge impact on tribal communities.
- Tribal Sovereignty LD 1626. Wabenaki Alliance with support of faith communities.

Also,

- LD 1902 would provide grants to communities for climate education; standards are there, but need financial assistance.

- LD # 736 Expand Maine's land in "Ecological Reserve" at least one for every habitat type, for research. Older woodlands= higher carbon sequestration.

Water Bills:

-reclassify and upgrade of Maine's rivers

- upcoming relicensing of dams (every 50 years) - opportunity to have the dams removed along Kennebec / Sandy River. Opposed by dam owners and Sappi Mill- precedents of previous dam removals, that their concerns are unfounded.

-LD 489: Amend constitution to include the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

-Tree Task Force Update (Kristen Dorsey) Our first meeting was attended by three of the five members. Discussed initial take-aways from The Tree Survey Report and Project Canopy Recommendations. At the next meeting on February 3rd, we will prioritize the recommendations and develop an approach plan. Meetings will take place on Thursdays at 7:00, once monthly.

-EV Charging Station progress (Josh Olins) Figuring out how to reach out to encourage private owners to install charging stations without the appearance of the town promoting specific contractors / installers. Perhaps: do an informational exchange / collaboration with C.A.N. to do this; implement through the Community Resilience Partnership Grants which is being pursued by the town; contact other town committees to discover whether EV Stations would be part of their pursuits.

-Action Items: (Howie) will align our priority list with the Resilience Partnership Strategy Areas for community actions. **(All)** Attend Downtown Vision Workshops; attend/contact Town Council to support a Sustainability Coordinator in the 2022-23 Town Budget.

-Meeting Adjourned at 8:20

Minutes recorded by Kristen Dorsey