



June 16, 2020 - News for You



## TOWN OF FREEPORT

MUNICIPAL BULLETIN

### **The Next Regular Town Council Meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

For information on how to join the webinar click on the July 7, 2020 Town Council Agenda which can be found on the calendar on the Town's website at [www.freeportmaine.com](http://www.freeportmaine.com) (Town Council agendas are posted by the end of business day Thursday before the meeting).

### **Town Council & Police Department Forum Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:30 PM**

In response to the national unrest surrounding police related incidents in other areas of the country, the Town of Freeport is scheduling a public forum/discussion to provide opportunities to start a dialogue between the Town Council, Police Department and the Community. The first portion of the forum will be an opportunity to educate officials and the public on current Freeport policing standards. This will include time to hear about current department policies and procedures; recruitment and hiring practices; training methods; equipment and its use; and to discuss how officers interact with citizens and the relationship our officers have with our community.

The second portion of the forum will consist of an opportunity for discussion, comments, and questions between community members and Town and Police Department officials. Because of limits on the number of active participants (limited to 100) due to Zoom teleconference technology, residents who may wish to speak during the forum are encouraged to pre-register using the link found on the Town's Meeting Calendar on the Town's website at [www.freeportmaine.com](http://www.freeportmaine.com). Residents who only wish to watch the forum but not speak will be able to do so on cable channel 3, the Town's live streaming video service at [fctv3.freeportmaine.com](http://fctv3.freeportmaine.com), or on the Town's Facebook page or YouTube channel.

### ***Looking for a significant way to become involved in your community? The Town of Freeport Needs You!***

The Appointments Committee will be meeting soon to review applications for vacancies on many of the Town's important Boards and Committees.

Currently there are vacancies on:

- Active Living Committee
- Cable TV Regulatory Board
- Complete Streets Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Library Board
- Sustainability Advisory Board

Additionally, terms will be expiring on a number of other Boards and Committees at the end of September, including:

- Appeals Board
- Board of Assessment Review
- Shellfish Commission

The Appointments Committee also maintains a list of residents interested in serving on other Boards and Committees for consideration when vacancies arise. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please complete the application attached to this email. Applications are also available at the Town Hall (30 Main Street) and at [www.freeportmaine.com](http://www.freeportmaine.com).

Please return your completed application to the Town Manager's Office or email to [jhanselman@freeportmaine.com](mailto:jhanselman@freeportmaine.com).

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**





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### Freeport Responds to COVID-19 Impact on Freeport Businesses

**COVID-19 Small Business Loan Program** - The Town of Freeport, the Freeport Chamber of Commerce, Visit Freeport and FEDC have united to bring a loan program to Freeport businesses to support our business community. On May 19, the Freeport Town Council appropriated \$100,000 in TIF funds to establish Freeport's first revolving loan fund for small businesses and we are working to obtain additional funds from grants or private donations. A loan application and parameters have been developed which will provide financial assistance for overhead costs not covered in other COVID-19 response programs offered by traditional lending and state, federal and regional agencies. This loan program is one part of actions taken by the town organizations to combat the effects COVID-19 is having on our business community. The loan program has begun accepting applications for borrowers; the program outline and application is available on the Freeport town website at <https://www.freeportmaine.com/home/news/covid-19-small-business-loan-program>. Please see the town website for all instructions for this loan program in support of our local Freeport businesses. Freeport is a strong community that will come through this difficult time!

**Temporary Activity Permits for expanding business activities outdoors and for temporary signage** - On May 19, 2020, the Freeport Town Council adopted an Emergency Ordinance allowing for the "Temporary Suspension of Certain Ordinance Standards to Safely Accommodate Expanded Outdoor Business Activities due to COVID-19". A Temporary Activity Permit may be applied for as allowed by the Emergency Ordinance. All permits applied for under this Ordinance must comply with any guidelines included in the adopted language. All permits issued, as allowed by this Ordinance, will expire at such time the Ordinance expires (which is subject to repeal or extension by the Freeport Town Council). Go to <https://www.freeportmaine.com/home/news/outdoor-business-activity-regulations-relaxed> for a temporary activity permit application form and handout for expanding business activities outdoors and for temporary signage. There is no fee for the permit and it can be submitted electronically to [permits@freeportmaine.com](mailto:permits@freeportmaine.com). Contact Caroline directly, via phone at (207) 865-4743 ext 107 or [cpelletier@freeportmaine.com](mailto:cpelletier@freeportmaine.com)

### Cancellations & Postponements:

- **Fourth of July** - Please be aware that due to the pandemic, all Fourth of July activities have been cancelled this year. *Public Safety Reminder:* Consumer fireworks are **NOT** permitted at any time throughout the year in Freeport.
- **The Annual Clean Up Days** which usually occur in June have been postponed. Currently plans are being made to reschedule the Clean Up Days for some time in the fall.
- **AARP Tax-Aide** - AARP Tax-Aide has no plans for their volunteers to return to Freeport (and other area tax help sites) again this year. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is providing online methods for filing and people can request the help of a volunteer coach by calling AARP Tax Aide at 1-888-227-7669 or online at: [https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/)

### Library News

The Freeport Community Library book drop has reopened and the Library is also now providing curbside pickup. Details on curbside pickup and a map of the curbside route can be found at

[www.freeportmaine.com](http://www.freeportmaine.com).



To keep up with Library news go

to: <https://sites.google.com/view/freeportlibrary> and sign up for their new email newsletter.

### REMINDERS:

- The Primary and RSU5 Budget Validation Election will be held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Absentee ballots are now available by going to <https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> or contacting the Town Clerk at 865-4743 x123.
- Property Taxes are Due June 18, 2020