

**MINUTES**  
**FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #11-22**  
**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 30 MAIN STREET, FREEPORT**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**

Chair Piltch called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Councilor Chair Daniel Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	X		
Council Vice Chair, John Egan, 38 Curtis Road	X		
Councilor Matthew Pillsbury, 36 Todd Brook Rd	X		
Councilor Chip Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road			X
Councilor Darrel Fournier, 3 Fournier Drive	X		
Councilor Jake Daniele, 264 Pownal Road	X		
Councilor Edward Bradley, 242 Flying Point Road			X

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Pledge of Allegiance

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:** To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #10-22 held on May 17, 2022 and to accept the minutes as printed.

-needed correction to Freeport Oyster Bar owner's name in minutes from Spartan to Sparta.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting # 10-22 held on May 17, 2022 and to accept the minutes as amended. **VOTE:** (Daniele & Fournier)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

**THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Announcements (15 minutes)

- Late opening: the library will be opening at 12:00pm on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> for staff training. There will be no storytime that day.
- The Friends of the Freeport Community Library are having a book sale in September 2022, but they need a lot of volunteers to make it happen. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Sign up online by visiting the library's website, [freeportlibrary.com](http://freeportlibrary.com).
- We will be holding a lottery for Commercial Shellfish Licenses on June 16, 2022 at 10 am. Available licenses include 3-adult resident commercial, 1-adult non-resident commercial and 2-student resident commercial.
- We have openings on various Boards and Committees including: Board of Assessment Review, Appeals Board, Cable Regulatory, Project Review Board and the Shellfish Committee. Please contact the Clerk's Office for details.

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- The reconstruction of Spar Cove Road will start next Tuesday and should be completed within the next 45 days.
- As mowing season is here we would like to remind everyone do not blow grass clippings into the roadway as it is very unsafe for motorcycles and bicycles.
- June 22 at 6 pm in Council Chambers Community Resilience Workshop for a more sustainable Freeport. Learn about climate hazards and impacts facing Freeport and give input on project prioritization in conjunction with GPCOG. Also available on Zoom.
- The Public Works department was thanked for regravelling and grading the entrance to Florida Lake.

### **FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Information Exchange (15 minutes)

-Next Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> the Town Council has a joint workshop with the Conservation Commission to talk about the future of Hedgehog Mountain. They will discuss the proposed new mountain bike trails and other items pivotal to the future.

### **FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Town Manager's Report (15 minutes)

-We have had complaints regarding noise, train track safety and hours of operation. We have reached out to volunteers that put it together and the police about legitimate concerns regarding train track safety. It will be posted and we are asking for skaters to limit use after 8 pm to address the noise concerns. We have asked the police to help us address this. It can't stay in that location if we can't address the concerns of the surrounding homeowners.

### **SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Public Comment Period – (30 Minutes) (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Joyce Clarkson-Veilleux shared that her elderly mother is in Maine Medical and relayed her mother's wishes to have an absentee ballot and encouraged people to vote on Tuesday.

Jay Staples thanked the Council for letting him sing on the sidewalk in Freeport. He does it out of love and wants to continue. The ordinance outlines amplification and the town could shut him down and he is willing to work with the town to rectify the issues but would like to meet with the Town administration to discuss, which was agreed to. For the town, we are concerned about the amplification and noise. Councilor Daniele spoke in favor of finding a solution so Mr. Staples can continue.

The Town Clerk for the Town Council to consider Deputy Clerk Carrie Weeman as the representative for Freeport/Harpswell on the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee. The Town will contact the Administrator in Harpswell to work out the details and come back to the Council next meeting if necessary.

Jodi Rayo, preacher and non-resident of Freeport, spoke to the Council in regards to also being able to preach her message on the sidewalks just as Mr. Staples does with his music. She also requested a meeting with the administration to work out the details. Mr. Joseph also agreed that we would meet and discuss those same issues regarding amplification on the sidewalks.

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**SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** To take action on the following items of business as read by the Council Chairperson:

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ITEM # 107-22 To consider action relative to adopting the June 7, 2022 Consent Agenda.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That the June 7, 2022 Consent Agenda be adopted.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That the June 7, 2022 Consent Agenda be adopted. **VOTE:** (Pillsbury & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Council Chair Piltch) (5 minutes)

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ITEM # 108-22 To consider action relative to discussing a new liquor license application for Freeport Oyster Bar. PUBLIC HEARING

**MOTION:** to open the public hearing (Fournier & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused)

**MOTION:** to close the public hearing (Fournier & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused)

**BE IT ORDERED:** That a new Liquor License application for Freeport Oyster Bar at 43 Main Street, Freeport be approved.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That a new Liquor License application for Freeport Oyster Bar at 43 Main Street, Freeport be approved. **VOTE:** (Pillsbury & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Town Clerk, Christine Wolfe)(10 minutes)

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ITEM # 109-22 To consider action relative to the Operating, Capital and TIF Budgets. PUBLIC HEARING.

**MOTION:** to open the public hearing (Egan & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused)

**MOTION:** to close the public hearing (Egan & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused)

Peter Anzuini spoke about why he moved to Freeport in 1980. He fears the Council represents newly arrived elite. There are 1,200 people on fixed incomes and inflation costs are \$3,000-6,000 in additional spending. He spoke about not expanding government services. He gave examples of how the Council has allowed this to happen over the last years including the Metro Bus Service. The original cost was \$25,000 and now it's \$90,000 and he doesn't see high ridership. Another example is street sweeping that has gone from twice a year to daily. Do we need to clean them daily? The town budget has a 13% increase and we have no authority over the school budget which just got approved at \$37 million. Tax payers have difficult decisions in what they want to cut for services. He outlined the cuts he would like to see in the FY23 Budget including many of the proposed new positions and council donations.

Brian Sloat, 27 year member of the Fire Department, spoke about the Fire and Police communication problems. The Police recently went from analog radio communication to digital. The Fire Department has analog except for one radio in the station, the ambulances and the two chief officers. He is Fire Police and it's extremely important to have communication with the Police on scene. Portable radios cost approximately \$1,000 each. To change over the Fire apparatus to digital it takes a key for the radios that cost \$60 per radio. \$25,000 will take care of 25 portable radios and he explained their importance.

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Everyone has a pager that gets every call dispatched. If the fire goes digital, the pagers will no longer work, so that will need to be kept in mind. Right now, the communication is not good.

Joyce Clarkson Veilleux, chair of Police Advisory Committee, spoke on the proposed Mental Health Professional position. She spoke on how police calls have increased with our increased hotel traffic used as housing. She went into detail on the job description of the position and the advantages to society and the Police Department with the addition of this position. She provided a detailed outline of the suggested job position to the Council (and is attached to the minutes as addendum #1). There are 11 nearby communities with this position already.

Elizabeth Ring, member of the Police Advisory Committee also spoke in favor of the Mental Health position and how critical it is to creating a healthy community. She explained about the need for this position and the benefits.

Peter Anzuini provided some statistics about crime in 2020: Freeport had 47 crimes that were violent in nature that included 12 rapes and 35 assaults. 868 property crimes were reported. Therefore, he supports an additional officer not the Mental Health Professional. In regard to cost of living, Freeport gets a D- and that is due to property taxes. He provided copies of his data to the Council.

**MOTION:** to close the public hearing (Egan & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused)

Councilor Fournier explained that 18 years ago the town spent a significant amount of money on the radio systems across the board. They had interchangeable radios and everything was supported at that time. The radios Mr. Sloat spoke about are 18 years old and they aren't supported on buying spare batteries or technology. Police did go digital and that's the wave of the future. He envisions the fire department going digital and he doesn't support spending money to fix a problem on equipment they can't use in the future when they go digital. The item of greatest concern, we have trained with the Police for 8 years on active shooter training. The protocol is the police go in initially, isolate the threat and are immediately followed by police and fire paramedics. Communication is critical. The other area they are utilized is Fire Police, who go out on all car accidents, hazardous material spills, etc. They help on various areas and we have great support and he supports finding funding for this. The upgrade would cost approximately \$30,000, but they will come back with a hard number for next meeting. The Town Manager explained that we have already done some upgrades. When we upgraded the entire radio broadcasting system we went from 2 transmission sites to 4 and lowered the wattage so it got a better blanketing and all the radios received better coverage because of that. This upgrade was a \$200,000 expense that just went online this winter. The entire system is built to digital system specs. At that time, the Fire Department didn't want to go digital and for good reasons they chose not to. For the radios we have bought since then, they only need the \$60 key to change from analog to digital, the old ones cannot do that. There is still cross communication, but it has to go through dispatch. The RSU5 buses should also be in the loop of conversation on this issue. Chief Conley spoke on who on the workforce is assigned the current portable radios which can be adjusted. On the fire ground, anyone working that should have a radio because it is a potential life link to the outside. They have discussed the critical needs and the long-term vision. As far as current apparatus, we only have 3 engines, a ladder and tanker that don't have electronic key in place on it, everything else has it. If we go digital, the pagers don't work anymore. In the Fire Rescue Capital Budget is a program called Street Wise which would allow the pagers to come in on cell phones that could help if they go 100% digital. This is suggested to be a Capital Expenditure that may be funded with the ARPA funds as a one-time expense. The Manager explained how the ARPA expenditures will appear on the agenda next meeting.

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Councilor Fournier also spoke on the new position of Mental Health Professional. He wondered if that could be partially supported by parking ticket revenues. The Police Chief thought that conservatively \$25,000-\$30,000 could be raised. He's not sure about supporting the Sustainability position as we are already working with GPCOG.

The Chair clarified that the crime rates that Mr. Anzuini shared with the Council were rates per 100,000 and that we did not have 12 rapes, the rate is well below Maine and national numbers. There is no money allocated for the Grange or Port Teen Center this year. The last 2 years we have had relatively flat budgets, but this year we have inflation of 6-8%. We were projecting a tax increase of 4.25% but with the changes we have made to the budget before us tonight it is down to a 3.3% increase. This budget includes a half Sustainability Coordinator that we may share with another town, a Mental Health Coordinator and does not include the Communications position.

We have instructed staff to come up with additional revenues. If you measure the actual dollar amount increase of the town operating budget against the town's total budget it's 2.3 % increase from last year to this year. Councilor Egan supports the Mental Health position. Freeport scored well on other variables in Mr. Anzuini's handout including livability, crime rates, amenities, housing, schools, cost of living (D-), and employment user ratings. Except for cost of living, Freeport scored well on the other categories. That's the feedback he gets. He has gotten 50-75+ requests for the Sustainability coordinator and climate change is an enormous topic facing everybody. We need staff capacity to work on it or we'll miss grant and planning opportunities like we already have.

One issue we are trying to keep up with is being competitive in hiring for Public Safety. Our pay scale is one of the reasons we have difficulty filling positions.

Are we hurting ourselves by only hiring a half time position? If this person is overwhelmed and there is more work to be done, are we going to be able to open it up. Long term this problem is not going away. The position may be able to pay for itself in the future. If we make a commitment to a person as a half time, we are locked into that. We are currently considering sharing the half time Sustainability Coordinator with Yarmouth. We did shared General Assistance with Yarmouth for many years and there is a good relationship on shared staff.

Freeport has a reputation as being hard to do business with. We have made changes addressing zoning and other issues. Part of the discussion was that the Codes office had 1,800 permits. There was a recommendation to have a Zoning Administrator to come in and stream line some of the business coming to town. Councilor Fournier believes this is a critical position. This person could be of significant assistance to businesses coming in. He is not convinced we need the Sustainability Coordinator position. The Zoning Administrator was approved in the mid-year cycle and has been posted. We are looking for the person with the right qualifications.

Most of the other towns with full time Sustainability positions are much larger towns and we may be okay with a half time shared position with Yarmouth to start. We do need to find out what Yarmouth decides before we can hire.

*Note: Budget approval is scheduled for June 21, 2022*

(Town Manager, Peter Joseph) (30 minutes)

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ITEM # 110-22 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing to discuss a new liquor license for the Nicholson Inn.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That a public hearing be set for June 21, 2022 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:00 pm, to discuss a new liquor license for the Nicholson Inn.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 3 and the Town's website.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That a public hearing be set for June 21, 2022 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:00 pm, to discuss a new liquor license for the Nicholson Inn. **VOTE:** (Daniele & Egan)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Town Clerk, Christine Wolfe)(10 minutes)

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ITEM # 111-22 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing to discuss a new liquor license for the Sunrise Cafe.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That a public hearing be set for June 21, 2022 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:00 pm, to discuss a new liquor license for the Sunrise Café located at 475 US Route 1, Freeport.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 3 and the Town's website.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That a public hearing be set for June 21, 2022 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:00 pm, to discuss a new liquor license for the Nicholson Inn. **VOTE:** (Pillsbury & Fournier)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Town Clerk, Christine Wolfe)(10 minutes)

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ITEM # 112-22 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing to discuss a new Special Amusement Permit for Freeport Oyster Bar.

It's called the fun permit. It is needed when there is a liquor license and live music, entertainment and/or dancing. We may look at the Special Amusement Ordinance for repeal in our move to be more business friendly. We may also consider rethinking the Pinball Ordinance for repeal later.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That a public hearing be set for June 21, 2022 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:00 pm, to discuss a Special Amusement Permit for Freeport Oyster Bar.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That copies be distributed equally between the

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Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 3 and the Town's website.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That a public hearing be set for June 21, 2022 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:00 pm, to discuss a Special Amusement Permit for Freeport Oyster Bar. **VOTE:** (Fournier & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Town Clerk, Christine Wolfe)(10 minutes)

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ITEM # 113-22 To consider action relative to amending the Freeport Library Fee Schedule

This is a \$5 non- resident increase to make it a divisible number. Average yearly costs are \$75-30 so we are comparable. Library is not at capacity, so we are not adding staff so there is no real costs to us.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That the Freeport Library Fee Schedule be amended to increase the price of Non-Resident Library Cards to the following: \$15 for 3 months, \$30 for 6 months and \$60 for 12 months.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That the Freeport Library Fee Schedule be amended to increase the price of Non-Resident Library Cards to the following: \$15 for 3 months, \$30 for 6 months and \$60 for 12 months. **VOTE:** (Daniele & Egan)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Library Director, Courtney Sparks (10 minutes)

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ITEM # 114-22 To consider action relative to amending the Town Council schedule to add August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as the Bustins Island Annual Meeting.

Councilor Egan would like to get refreshed on what the legal structure of a Village Corporation is. There is a legal and contractual relationship with the island and the residents, but it's not the same as our town.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That the Town Council schedule be amended to add August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as the Bustins Island Annual Meeting.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That the Town Council schedule be amended to add August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as the Bustins Island Annual Meeting. **VOTE:** ( Egan & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(Town Manager, Peter Joseph)(5 minutes)

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**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. General Assistance Program Update-(Freeport Community Services)(Sarah Lundin)(30 minutes)

FCS has taken over the administration of the General Assistance Program. The Executive Director gave an update on the homeless population including three categories: the traditional homeless, people in transition due to unexpected circumstances and lastly the recently influx of immigrants to the Portland area and the declaration by Portland to not give services above and beyond the State standards. Portland

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is just doing what other municipalities have been doing all along, being limiting to State standards, but this is contributing to a housing crisis. The result has been overflow coming to Freeport's hotels for housing. All hotels are privately owned and decisions to work to accept overflow are individual business decisions.

The Town Manager outlined the problems they are having with communications regarding daily changes to the housing crisis. When he is updated by Ms. Lundin he is passing along new information as soon as it's made available. Currently, the hotels providing housing in Freeport are the Best Western and The Casco Bay Inn. Around 200 individuals are staying at the two locations. FCS is providing them with food, using extra money secured through grant monies. She outlined the other groups and services being provided to the families. She outlined what other neighbor communities are providing, including the Best Western in Yarmouth which is also an overflow housing site. Since May, FCS has spent about \$5,000 worth of assistance including food and non-food emergency items on 12 families. This does not include housing costs which is being paid by the State. There may be an impact on the town if we are required to provide housing to families in the future.

She explained how a municipality becomes responsible for someone, either a citizen of the community or someone who moves to the community, when they are not able to provide for themselves. There are very specific income State guidelines that must be followed. There are a lot of barriers and hurdles to the GA Program that applicants have to get through and it is not a long-term solution. The new Mainers groups (specifically refugee and asylum seekers) are not allowed to work during the immigration purpose. GA is an interim stop gap for emergency needs. Anyone who is following the legal path to immigration qualifies for GA when they present in Freeport. It can take 6-8 months if not longer to get naturalization. Their situation is not going to improve until they have authorization to work. The reauthorization process is also cumbersome and long. We should send a letter to our Congressional Representatives about the restriction against working. We are seeing a shift to using hotels for housing as an emergency stop gap because there is no housing. There are concerns that over the winter we may see that the only housing in the greater Portland area is in Scarborough, Westbrook, South Portland and Freeport, where there are big blocks of hotels. The responsibility does fall on the municipality where they hope to reside. Due to the fact that we adhere to the GA maximums, the number of nights allowed may be limited but the problem is limited housing options. Now with shelters being full, we are obligated to provide emergency shelter for someone. We have a large number of hotel rooms, so we may become a catch area. There are an increasing number of hotels that do not want to participate in the GA program which is up to the property owner. It's not an emergency yet, but it does cause concern from a financial liability stand point.

Councilor Fournier suggested that we may need to look into an impact fee for these hotels that are changing from seasonal hotels to having residents for a longer term stay. Town departments, including FCS and Public Safety, have felt the impact from the influx of housing seekers. We are not working with other larger municipalities, like Bangor, because they are all dealing with the same issue too. The families receiving assistance have been very appreciative of the help.

We will be seeing an increase in need this year from residents that may have not needed it before. The food pantry numbers have more than doubled. Gas vouchers are being utilized regularly. Electrical disconnects are coming in fast and CMP is being tough and it's hard for families. We've seen an increase in the Backpack Program for school lunches. Emergency Assistance can help with any random need, such as dental care, car repairs, etc. Councilor Pillsbury supports using the ARPA funds to help support this.



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2. Discussion of Capital Reserve and Fund Balance Policies (Chair Piltch)(30 minutes)

There are three pieces to this are: do we have the right amount of money in our Reserves; are we investing it the right way and lastly, should we remove fossil fuel companies from our portfolio of investments.

Councilor Fournier: When he looked at the capital budget for this year, he was under the belief that we try to be fairly accurate on our five year projections. He sees that we have comfortable funding for 2-3 years, but doesn't see us at the level for 5 years. In 1983, the department heads were under fire because the town was bonding all of the fire apparatus, dump trucks and police cruisers and the town was in trouble. He doesn't want to see the town going backwards on our capital budget because there are significant purchases coming down the road. This fall we should see if we can set a policy outlining where we want to go and how we are addressing that.

The Council is provided information in the budget that outlines each of the 10 Reserve Funds and what the high and low benchmarks are for each, which we are more or less between. The benchmarks are driven by the 5 year Capital Plan and we can have that discussion each spring when we do the Capital Budget. We can look at if we have enough in the Reserves. We haven't bonded anything in 10 years other than the Bridge Bonds we just approved. We are banking on having to spend the low benchmark amount over the next 5 years. If we had an account, which we don't, that was wildly outside of the benchmark range, then he would be in support of putting it in non risky traditional investments like equities.

Councilor Egan: Counts on the professionals we use to make the investment decisions but is happy to review their profile of what they think the risk is for Reserve accounts. He is comfortable in the fact that in his 6 years on the Council, they have approved between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million dollar capital budgets each year with Reserve accounts. The balances are still quite healthy. In 2017, we bought a \$800,000 firetruck because we planned for it and paid for it without bonding. Most of the items in the Capital are \$20,000-\$150,000 scale.

Two years out we have a ladder truck coming up for purchase at approximately \$1.4 million dollars, so significantly more. Councilor Fournier suggested hiring a company that would look at the investment policies to see if it mirrors where we want to go. The Town Manager is conservative and he likes conservatism but are we missing some opportunities because of our policies.

The manager added that the benefit to paying by saving is we get the interest on the money for the 5 years we are saving and many vendors give discounts for cash. Sometimes we receive the product faster when paying in advance.

The Chair is reasonable comfortable with the risks the town is taking now. He will make a motion to adjust our policy to divest out of fossil fuel investments. We do have investment professionals that look to the Town Council to tell them how much risk we want to take.

Councilor Pillsbury would like to see a mechanism in place for review of the investment policy on a regular basis. His concern is that our policy is not responsive. There is no set review or finance committee, we find ourselves with the same policy we've had for years. He also encourages discussion about diverging from certain investments, it's a socially responsible thing to do.

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In the short term, if anyone has changes they want to recommend, let the Chair know and we'll get them on the agenda. The Chair supports the idea of reviewing the policy periodically.

3. Discussion regarding Bow Street Parklet (Town Manager, Peter Joseph)(15 minutes)

We put up a parklet on Main Street that has worked well. There is a request for a second one on Bow Street in front of Island Treasure Toys and Brickyard Hallow. It is town property and would take up 2-3 parking spaces. The business owners will maintain it and there is not opposition from other business owners. A map was displayed showing the parking spots to be utilized. It would be for all public use, not just the businesses. We would construct the platform, which would be reusable, and the jersey barriers with a total cost of \$1,000. The platform at Derosier's costs the town zero dollars. They will not serve liquor outside. We need a platform to make it ADA accessible. Accessibility options to the space were discussed and ultimately it was determined to go with the original plan. Chief Goodman spoke about the safety issues and why the jersey barriers are there and set specifically to protect the people using the parklet. There has been 100% support from patrons using the parklet on Main Street.

**MOTION:** To approve the proposed Parklet on Bow Street. **VOTE:** ( Egan & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

4. Discussion of a Pride Crosswalk (Chair Piltch)(15 minutes)

This originated with the Town Council. This is a human gesture and shows support for a neighbor or friend. We are not doing it because a lot of our neighboring communities are. The cost is insignificant compared to the impact it could have. It's important to show support for members of our community who have been marginalized and victimized. This is a small gesture, an olive branch. The Chair described the significant challenges faced by the LGBTQ community.

Councilor Pillsbury fully supports the crosswalk. Councilor Fournier does not want to see pushback if other groups want to paint a crosswalk for their groups. He would like to see a crosswalk painted red, white and blue. Let's celebrate our country and if we celebrate one, we are going to have more request come in too. The request on the table is not coming from a specific group. It's up to the council to say this is a good idea.

The logistics issue as to whether this is permanent is, it would need to be repainted each year and the Council leadership is transitional and may choose to not do it in the future.

It was pointed out that D.O.T. wants crosswalks painted in white to identify pedestrians. Our reading of it agrees that the lines should be white but we are proposing painting the spaces between the white spaces. The State has allowed this and does not want to cease political statements being made on the municipal level. Councilor Egan does not see it as a political statement.

Councilor Daniele heard discussion about using town resources for this and suggested opening it up to donations. Councilor Egan offered to pay for the paint.

Peter Anzuini spoke against the idea of the crosswalk. We should have a policy so that all applicants have a process and everyone is treated equally by the Council.

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Annique Milite spoke against the idea as it's an empty gesture and inefficient use of tax payer funds. She offered other suggestions the Council could pursue that would be more effective treatments and tributes out there.

Melanie Sachs via Zoom: Spoke as a resident of Freeport. She brought it back to the Council goals of 2021-2022 that "the Freeport Town Council is committed to engaging our residents and one another in respectful constructive dialogue about issues facing our community." Freeport is a wonderful place to live, work and visit and has a reputation for inclusiveness and kindness. Specifically in goal 3, in the same document, it states the Council will affirm that "Freeport is a welcoming, inclusive place to live and does not tolerate racism, prejudice or discrimination of any kind". This core value will be reflected in the town's public facing communication channels and materials. She supports the downtown sidewalk affirming and supporting the LGBTQ community as it aligns with the Council's goals stated above.

A resident, formerly on Zoom, came into the meeting to speak to the Council directly. They spoke in favor of the crosswalk. Their existence is not a political statement, it's who they are. The damage being done around the country to other Trans and queer people is very scary. To have the town they grew up in validate that they care about who they are is very important and it's appreciated.

The cost would be approximately \$200. The manager can bring back a firm estimate and understands some people are in opposition and may not want to use tax payer monies. The Council offered to pay for it or to fund raise. Other groups may come forward with similar crosswalk requests.

Joyce Veilluex (via Zoom) asked about the location of the crosswalk. She suggested putting them near the schools so those that a bullied most can see them daily. The chair would like to see it someplace more visible.

**MOTION:** To adopt a pride crosswalk in celebration of Pride Month each year.

**VOTE:** (Pillsbury & Piltch)(4-Ayes)(1-Nay- Fournier)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ITEM # 115-22 To consider action relative to an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C) pertaining to a Real Estate matter.

**MOTION:** That the Town Council enter Executive Session. (Piltch & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

**MOTION:** That the Town Council exit Executive Session. (Egan & Daniele)(4-Ayes)(1-Nay- Fournier)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

(30 minutes)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (Piltch & Daniele)(5-Ayes)(2-Excused Bradley & Lawrence)

**END OF AGENDA (Estimated time of adjournment 10:15 PM)**

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	<b>INITIATED ON</b>	<b>PROPOSED BY</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
<b>#1</b>	<b>1/4/2022</b>	<b>Councilor Pillsbury</b>	<b>Tasked for 2022</b>
<b>#3</b>		<b>Chair Piltch</b>	
<b>#6</b>		<b>Chair Piltch</b>	
<b>#7</b>		<b>Councilor Fournier</b>	
<b>#9</b>		<b>Councilors Fournier &amp; Bradley</b>	
<b>#10</b>		<b>Mr. Joseph</b>	
<b>#11</b>			
<b>#12</b>		<b>Councilor Piltch</b>	
<b>#13</b>			
<b>#15</b>	<b>March 2022</b>	<b>Chair Piltch</b>	
<b>#16</b>	<b>4/19/22</b>	<b>John Egan</b>	