

## Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board - Agenda 1/3/2022

### Begin meeting 6:30 pm

- **Introductions - new board members:** 5 mins

- **Approve minutes for 12/20/21 meeting:** 5 mins

Please do not alter previous Agenda to make minutes. Cut and paste into new doc. Place in "Minutes Pending Approval" folder in "FSAB Minutes" folder.

- **Tree Committee:** 5 mins

Kristen is FSAB Liaison. Status of planning for first meeting

- **Funding requests:** 5 mins

Determine attendance at upcoming TC meetings to ask for ½ time sustainability coordinator and funding for phase 2 Climate Action Plan. Dates are 1/4 and 1/18

☰ Arguments in favor of hiring a part time sustainability coordinator for Freeport:

- **Compost for residents:** 5 mins

Accept Garbage to Garden's offer to bring free compost for residents on May 9th? Discuss logistics (one-day distribution of free compost in conjunction with May 9th talk). Per Phoebe- *If the finished compost return to residents were organized in conjunction with something like that speaking event, perhaps we could even donate a portion of the finished compost as part of it.*

- **GPCOG work:** 10 mins

### December Regional Sustainability Professionals Roundtable:

Update on staff attended zoom call on Tuesday the 21st - Cecilia and Valy report out

**Community Resilience Partnership** - This is a new technical assistance fund that will support climate action planning in municipalities throughout Maine.

<https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership> (Feb 8 grant deadline)

- **Freeport Downtown Vision - Design Week** - <https://www.freeportdowntown.me/> : 5 mins

Thursday, February 3 - Monday, February 7, 2022 - Discuss attendance

*Join us for a five-day planning festival that will include several workshops, open houses, and focus group meetings. The planning team will be working from a temporary pop-up design studio which will be open to the public from 8 AM to 9 PM daily. The goal is to make it easy for all to participate in creating the plan for Downtown.*

- **Lecture Series:** 15 mins

**January 10th:** Low Energy Buildings, a Path to our Carbon Goals *with* Naomi C.O. Beal & Tugba Salman Gurcan and Legislative sentiment by Melanie Sachs

Flyer ready for distribution - ☰ Jan 10th Lecture flyer sent to Cecilia for webpage and to Naomi for other PR. Updated Cover slide - ☑ Cover slide Dec 6 lecture

**February 17th:** Smart Growth with Kristina Egan. Finalize plan, add someone to talk about Freeport Downtown vision to make it local? (info from design week pop-up)

**March 14th:** Carbon emissions, Climate Action Plan with Susana Hancock and panel. (Beyond the Freeport CAN presentation from Jan 20) What does Resiliency mean for Freeport?

**April 11th:** Sustainable Seafood with Barton Seaver and local farmers.

**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 (last name?) 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?

• **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:** 10 mins

**Forecaster Articles:** Discuss possible topics and guest writers. 500-600 words in length. Consider reporting on January lecture plus news release for February.

**Town of Freeport Municipal Bulletin:** Mandy submitted FSAB email address, lecture info, and monthly tip for "Sustainability" section. YouTube links for recordings of FSAB lectures will be included in sustainability section of bulletin once available.

**FSAB WEBPAGE:** Mandy/Cecilia - button on town home page for easier navigation. Add "Links" section for recordings of FSAB lectures on YouTube when available. Add "Tips" section to website and populate with monthly tips from newsletter

• **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. Solar farm application

- 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.*

• **LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS:**

Discuss bringing ideas for future legislation to Melanie on 1/24 (food waste?)

• **Update from Freeport CAN:** 5mins

Plans for January 20th meeting - Susana

• **Building permits data:** 5 mins

Cecilia report out if anything new

**Adjourn by 8pm**