

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021
6:30 PM

| <u>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</u> | PRESENT | EXCUSED | ABSENT |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Edward Bradley, 242 Flying Point Road | x | | |
| Jake Daniele, 264 Pownal Road | x | | |
| John Egan, 38 Curtis Road (Chair) | x | | |
| Henry Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road | x | | |
| Daniel Pilch, 25 Quarry Lane | x | | |
| Douglas Reighley, 2 Harbor Ridge Road | x | | |
| Tawni Whitney, 56 Baldwin Road (Vice Chair) | x | | |

Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He explained that the floor would be opened for public participation at a couple of places later on and at that point residents would be able to address the Council in live time. He took attendance and noted that all Councilors as well as the Town Manager are here this evening.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #01-21 held on January 05, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #01-21 held on January 05, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Reighley & Daniele) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

Chair Egan announced that there will be a special Municipal Election on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at Freeport Town Hall regarding the authorization of the Town of Freeport to issue a general authorization bond in an amount not to exceed \$634,000 to fund the local share of cost to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge as part of the MDOT project to replace the Desert Road and Mallett Drive bridges over Interstate 295. This is a topic on tonight's agenda and we will be hearing a lot more on this later on.

A public hearing has been scheduled for February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. via zoom to discuss the warrant article to be voted on at this special Municipal Election. He strongly encouraged Councilors to use all of their networks and communication channels to share this information. This is a completely out of sequence election on a very important issue in order to pass the bond for these Connect Freeport improvements on Exit 20 and Exit 22 bridges. We will be discussing this later this evening.

The Appointments Committee is seeking residents interested in serving on some of the many Town Boards and Committees. They will be meeting soon to discuss several current vacancies. They met this morning but would be happy to meet again soon. There will be spots on the Board of Assessment Review, Coastal Waters, the Library Board of Trustees and the Project Review Board. For more information,

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

please go to the Town's website, www.FreeportMaine.com, Applications are also available at the Town Hall.

The AARP Tax Aid Program is not planning on having any in-person tax appointments this year and have not made a decision on other tax assistance options at this time. If anyone in Town hears about options that become available, the information will be posted on the Town's website and cable. At this time, we do not have any information about on-line tax preparation that has been offered in the past but it might be an option coming forward.

Councilor Reighley asked if we could use that sign in front of the Public Safety Building to promote the Special Election? Chair Egan advised that there are plans to do that.

Vice Chair Whitney noted she is grateful to our Town Engineer, Adam Bliss that the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station is open during the regular hours the Transfer Station is open. She reminded residents that there is an organization titled Freeport Friends that helps people in temporary crisis and helps seniors age in place. Right now, we have a lovely group of volunteers who are excited to make lasagna. If someone would like a lasagna dinner, they can provide it. They should contact her directly. She explained what happens at the Swap Shop to Councilor Bradley.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Councilor Bradley advised that he and Councilor Daniele met last night via zoom with District 2 parties that were interested in what they are doing on the Council set up by the Thomas Means Club and the Wolfe Neck Club. He felt they had an open and frank discussion about many of the issues being considered by the Council and the Council has done. He felt it was a good thing to do just to give people a chance to have input and he feels he got confirmation that most of the things the Council is doing is heading in the right direction as far as they were concerned.

He brought up the Island Rover and from Executive Session he was delegated to reach out and find ways to avoid litigation and move the baton. He cannot report he was entirely successful but there has been some modest positive progress. He wants to make sure that he is still doing what the Council feels he should be doing. He felt there was an opportunity to show the neighborhood that the Council understood that they had some issues that we could address. One is the clutter in the area of the boat and all the equipment, waste and supplies related to it and maybe we could get the participants and the Town to work towards cleaning this up so the neighborhood wouldn't feel so junky.

The boat itself by his inspection creates an attractive nuisance which has the potential for harming people. Steps up to the top of the boat which is 20 feet in the air and open doors into the bilge are not secure which are inviting people who had interest in using it into a dangerous situation. He has had contact with both Carter Becker and Harold Arndt and the proposal is that without regard to the litigation at this stage, we work together, clean up the site and secure the vessel. That means a 3-phase clean-up between now and early-to late spring, at least before summer, where Harold and Town work together to segregate things that have no value and are pure junk and move them where they should go. They are asking if we appropriate and that is to be determined and we provide some transportation and perhaps some personnel to help move some of this stuff while they organize their resources to get that done. The second phase of that would be something that would occur by fall which would segregate things that have value or Harold believes has value in that area which are materials or mechanical equipment and he would auction it off.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

What is left in Phase 3 would be removed that has no benefit to the boat or to Harold. District 2 neighbors that we are concerned about their situation and we combine our resources to get that done and at the same time we would secure the vessel by closing off access to the deck by putting barriers to the steps welded to the boat and we would lock the bilge doors going into the boat so nobody could inadvertently fall or get lost, get stranded in there and die or get otherwise injured. He feels this is a good first step to a solution he hoped we could reach in terms of collaborating to solve this short of litigation. It is not a solution but a positive step in that direction and he urged the Council to say to him or Mr. Joseph that this is a good step and we encourage you to explore it to see what it actually means in terms of Town resources. If it is appropriate, he feels we should step up if we can make it happen so the neighbors think we are listening to them and the boat is secure and we avoid serious injury there.

Chair Egan would be inclined to be very restrictive on a commitment of Town-employee labor but a truck to move the larger items and one other person to go with the driver of the truck would be something he has in mind. He would like to get a sense of the volume we are talking about before any action comes forward. He would like a sense of cubic yards or whatever the measurement might be of material but agrees it is a good effort. That was one of the original complaints way back when the condition and messiness of the site was an opportunity for someone to get hurt. We certainly can participate in that clean-up. Councilor Bradley has the same concerns that we may not be asked to spend more money than we think we can but he would like to be sure that we keep track, if we can, that what we are bringing to the Transfer Station is actually coming from this site as opposed to other sites. He knows that people think that this is Harold's problem, but he has said before that as you go through the record, you can't help but feel that the Town participated in getting this to the point it is in. It was all well intentioned but we can't arm's length say, Harold this is your problem, you solve it and we will put in what we think is appropriate. He thinks we ought to step up and say step by step until it is shown it is too much for us to do that, we are willing participants and collaborators in cleaning up the site. District 2 would appreciate it.

Councilor Reighley advised that the Ordinance Committee held a meeting and Councilor Piltch, our Town Planner and our Town Manager and he with input from the Town Attorney are getting really close to providing an Ordinance for Short Term Rentals to be brought forth to Council. If they have one more meeting, he believes our Town Planner is working with the Town Attorney, they will be able to go forward and hopefully present it at the next Council meeting. Mr. Joseph noted he heard everything Councilor Reighley said and agrees we are almost there. Councilor Piltch noted he is looking forward to bringing it to Council.

Mr. Joseph suggested putting the Island Rover on the next Council agenda because it seems to be a topic he will need guidance from the Council on if we are dedicating Town resources on a private piece of property. He wants the directive from the Council so we are not expending public resources on a private property. He is in support if it is within our Staff's ability and capacity. Councilor Reighley feels it deserves more time than it allowed in Information Exchange. Councilor Lawrence requested an estimate of what we need before the next meeting? He looked at the site and agrees we should do something. Chair Egan agreed and noted it should be added to the agenda on February 2nd for discussion.

Councilor Reighley pointed out that the Ordinance Committee is looking forward to the Council sending it something new and exciting to do.

Councilor Piltch advised that he met with the Conservation Commission and the Ordinance that is in place to establish the Conservation Commission is not entirely how they operate these days so they are starting to update that and the recommendation will go before the Ordinance Committee and ultimately to the Town Council.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Chair Egan mentioned that he was approached by the two cannabis growers in our community asking for the Council to revisit the idea of their particular petition which is to get an amendment to their permission and approvals as medicinal cannibals growers and expand it to adult use cannabis. There would be no change in operation just a change in designation is what they are asking for. Previously under prior Councils, there was not an appetite to bring the issue of cannabis to the table. He is inclined to give them a fair hearing and take it up again but he will not do that if there is a significant balance of this group not interested in discussing cannabis or potential ways it might be permitted in the community. This was not a lukewarm issue for most members of prior Councils so he is bringing it up now to see if there is an appetite for the Council to consider the matter in a more formal discussion. Councilor Lawrence feels there is an appetite now. Councilor Piltch feels there should at least be a discussion of the issues. Councilor Reighley agreed and is confident the Ordinance Committee is prepared to work on it. Councilor Daniele agreed he would listen. Councilor Bradley noted he is not in favor of cannabis in our community. Vice Chair Whitney mentioned that her role as a Councilor is to listen and she is happy to do that. Chair Egan will communicate that willingness to at least have a conversation to the growers that are in our community now and encourage them to make a more formal presentation about their specific request for what they are asking for. The Council can decide to consider just that or any other dynamics that may be coming from the industry. He is not sure of the timing on this.

Councilor Daniele asked if someone could point out some resources on this for him. Mr. Joseph asked him to give him a call and he will bring him up to speed. Vice Chair Whitney noted she would appreciate being educated as well. Councilor Bradley mentioned he did not have any background on this and would love to be educated as well. Mr. Joseph noted it would take two phone calls because it is complicated.

Councilor Reighley noted that we can also get information from the Office of Marijuana Policy through the State. Chair Egan agreed.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph screen shared his monthly update on our status of the things we are watching such as the revenue items and expenditure items we are watching in regards to the economic slowdown because of the COVID Pandemic. He answered questions from Councilors. Councilor Bradley brought up revenue sharing. Mr. Joseph pointed out that our former Council Chair Melanie Sachs has been appointed to the State's Taxation Committee so we have a great connection in the event there is a bill seeking to reduce revenue sharing. Mr. Joseph noted that he is watching the Homestead Exemptions because it is an easy one to get lost in the mix and people don't understand how it changed to a State reimbursement and affect the tax rate locally. More discussion followed. Chair Egan suggested having a workshop scheduled on tax revenue and how the Town budget works for anyone in the public interested. The word commitment means a lot different when you are talking about municipality tax revenues. This discussion reminds him that there may be other people wondering how our budgeting and tracking revenue process works. Councilor Bradley had more questions which Mr. Joseph addressed. He mentioned that Jessica Maloy is available to us at any time.

Mr. Joseph asked for guidance on vaccination figures and information. He is aware there is a lot of information in the public but it is further on the agenda. He offered to do a 5-minute summary at this time or wait until Other Business which is at the end of the agenda. Chair Egan noted he could read his facts and figures but the Council would get into a dialogue at that segment of the meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Mr. Joseph shared his understanding and noted that the Fire Chief is in the audience. This information was accurate when he wrote it four hours ago and it may have changed significantly since then. For vaccinations, Maine has been allocated approximately 134,000 first doses and approximately 134,000 second doses. They are tracked in two separate columns so they know there is enough to follow up with the second dose. This is what is spoken for from the factory floor to what is already in freezers and what is in people's arms. He reads that we are receiving about 17,000 each of first and second doses for the past couple of weeks. It is going slightly each week but not very quickly. For the record, it will take about 60 weeks to get 1.3M people vaccinated at the current rate but he suspects the vaccination production will ramp up. These are U.S. CDC figures. The Statewide figures are as of today, the CDC reports that 68,914 first doses have been administered and are actually in the arm. 12,441 have gotten the second dose. He is confident the second dose number will rise rapidly because we just started first dosing about a month ago. By next month all 68,000 should have gotten their second dose. Just today, the Maine CDC has announced vaccination clinics for age 70+ residents. These are all by appointment and have to be scheduled. The locations for a public clinic are Maine Health run by Mid-coast Hospital in Brunswick and Maine Health in Westbrook. Northern Light Home Health and Hospice will run a public clinic in South Portland. Inter-Med in South Portland will have a clinic for Inter-Med patients only by appointment. Central Maine Medical as well as St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston will be running public clinics for all people 70+. This detailed information is on the Town's website.

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

Joyce Veilleux advised that one of the ways to get the information out on the Bridges over 295 is to send letters to the Editors in all of our newspapers which she would be happy to do in support of the project. She asked the Town Manager to put together one page or less of facts and figures so those that want to write letters and get things correct so everybody has the same numbers and timelines, etc. She will find people that will write letters in support. It is a way to get the information out to the public. Chair Egan thanked her and advised that we have a sample text but an entire website that has pictures, diagrams and information about the specifics of the construction and the larger plan and assets that are now going to be connected in our community. It is called Connect Freeport and we will be having a test drive of that website this evening and he will be sure to get that information to Mrs. Veilleux so that she can write a letter in her own words.

Councilor Reighley advised Mrs. Veilleux that the Complete Streets and Active Living Committees both have liaisons that work on the bridge projects and would be anxious to contribute to making that letter.

Since there were no other public comments provided, Chair Egan closed the Public Comment Period but noted that there will be informal discussion later on the agenda and if there is any interest, the Council can take public comment then as well.

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

ITEM # 09-21 To consider action relative to adopting the January 19, 2021 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the January 19, 2021 Consent Agenda be adopted.
Egan & Reighley)

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Chair Egan reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for members of the public. He acknowledged the generous donations to the Library and the Heating Assistance Fund. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan introduced an item in front of the printed agenda which is to bring forward a confirmation list of names from the Appointments Committee this morning. We don't really need an actual vote on the names coming forward but we have a committee that has recently had some vacancies and one committee that is just forming so we would like the Council to hear those names and put them into the public record for convening.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To take up an item not on the printed agenda.
(Bradley & Piltch) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Councilor Bradley explained that the Appointments Committee felt this morning in the spirit of inclusion and diversity, that everybody who expressed an interest in this committee should be appointed and that is what they recommended.

Chair Egan noted that this committee will most likely have to break into small groups to tackle some of the topics and discussions they are likely to engage in but we will let the committee organize itself. With this vote this evening, Johanna is prepared to advise the new members of their appointment tomorrow and we are hoping this committee can start convening as soon as next week depending on schedules. He is planning to be a liaison to the committee for the Council but anyone is welcome. Mr. Joseph clarified that it is the Appointments Committee's recommendation but the Council is the appointing authority for the committee that it created.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To receive the following names to the Complete Streets Committee: Barbara Guffin and Elizabeth McDonald. In addition, the following appointments be made to the Social & Racial Equity Assessment Ad Hoc Committee: Conrad Anderson, Linda Berger, Brian Burwell, Stephanie Cesario-DeBiasi, Warren Graver, Chalmers Hardenbergh, Jessica Hench, Benjamin Emile LeHay, Pamela Leone, Prince Pombo Mafumba, Mari Miya, Jessica Perez, Elizabeth Ring, Gimbala Sankare, Kelly Sink and Heather Sylvester.
(Reighley & Whitney)

Councilors Reighley and Whitney offered to withdraw this motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To appoint the following names to the Complete Streets Committee: Barbara Guffin and Elizabeth McDonald. In addition, the following appointments be made to the Social & Racial Equity Assessment Ad Hoc Committee: Conrad Anderson, Linda Berger, Brian Burwell, Stephanie Cesario-DeBiasi, Warren Graver, Chalmers Hardenbergh, Jessica Hench, Benjamin Emile LeHay, Pamela Leone, Prince Pombo Mafumba, Mari Miya, Jessica Perez, Elizabeth Ring, Gimbala Sankare, Kelly Sink and Heather Sylvester. (Bradley & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 10-21 To consider action relative to a supplemental appropriation of \$19,800 for the purpose of building upgrades at the Freeport Recycling Facility. PUBLIC HEARING.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the Public Hearing. (Daniele & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:**
(7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Chair Egan explained that the Council talked about this at the last meeting. Mr. Joseph noted that this was intended to be a smaller project but due to current building costs and scope of work, it came in higher than expected so it qualifies as a Capital project even though the intent was that it was going to be a regular maintenance project, not a Capital project. They appropriated \$19,800 for this purpose. The intent was that it would come from the project fund for the container project that was discussed last week which has a surplus of about \$30,000 or \$40,000 so this is well below that amount.

Mr. Bliss explained that the scope of work includes removal of two overhead doors and they are replacing them with service windows and service doors which will include framing, electrical work, a work station to better facilitate transactions and move visitors through the process both at the scale and the other service window where they can come and pick up punch tickets, etc. This is about COVID safety and upgrading the building so that it better fits increased traffic and makes the facility more efficient. Mr. Joseph pointed out that after the public hearing, whoever reads the order should actually read BE IT ORDAINED.

There were no public comments received.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To close the Public Hearing. (Daniele & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

BE IT ORDAINED: That a supplemental appropriation of \$19,800.00 for the purpose of building upgrades at the Freeport Recycling Facility be approved. (Daniele & Reighley)

ITEM # 11-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing to consider amendments to Freeport Zoning Ordinance Sections 104 (Definitions) and 201 (General Restrictions), pertaining to Shoreland Zoning.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be scheduled for February 2, 2021 to consider amendments to Freeport Zoning Ordinance Sections 104 (Definitions) and 201 (General Restrictions), pertaining to Shoreland Zoning.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office and the Town Manager's Office (and at the Town of Freeport Community Library, if open) for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel and the Town's website. (Whitney & Reighley)

Town Planner, Caroline Pelletier explained that this amendment is being forwarded by Staff with assistance from the Town Attorney. Within the past year or two, we have run into a couple of situations where we have large landowners that own a good size parcel and want to cut off a piece of land. We also have cases where large parcels were cut in the past and the problem we have is some of these large lots for Shoreland Zoning do not meet the shore frontage requirement. If they were to split a smaller lot off, that lot may not. If you own a lot that is not on the water but is in the Shoreland Zone, it is impossible to meet the shore frontage requirement because you do not physically abut that water body. However, under State Shoreland Zoning, you have to and you cannot alter a non-conforming lot because it is legally non-conforming. We have been enforcing this accurately through Shoreland Zoning and the DEP agrees with the way the Town's Codes Officer is doing it. It seemed reasonable to try to find a solution for some of our landowners that have this situation with larger lots. The Town Attorney worked with the DEP and the Attorney General to come up with the language before the Council. DEP has indicated it would be

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

favorably received. They told us to go through our process and if the amendment were adopted, we would forward it to DEP and they would do their final review and sign off on it. Mr. Joseph has been very involved in this and is here so he can give the Council some additional background if needed. Mr. Joseph indicated that he only needs to say that we have had three cases where this has come into play and none of the three cases' property owners have not felt that it was fair. There has been a lot of anger at this. The Town wasn't necessarily opposed to the division of the lots being proposed. It was more of a technicality because of the way the lots were originally created 10, 20 or 30 years ago that made them non-conforming for Shoreland Zoning purposes. State Law is still State Law unless we can get a local ordinance in place that the State of Maine agrees to. He credits the Town Attorney who worked with DEP and the Attorney General's office to come up with language that is agreeable that the State would allow to pass. We won't know for sure until we forward it to them for review but they have given us a favorable thumbs up. Councilor Bradley asked Mr. Joseph to explain how a DEP interpretation can amend State Law. Mr. Joseph explained that Shoreland Zoning is shared between the State and between the Town. We are required to adopt Shoreland Zoning by the mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act of the State. Our Shoreland Zoning provisions in our Zoning Ordinance must be approved at all times by the DEP Commissioner's Office. If we make an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that affects Shoreland Zoning and all that is contrary to the State's reading of something or the Law or anything like that, The DEP's Commissioner's Office will reject that and it will no longer be in effect. To modify our existing Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, we need to get blessing from the political administrative judgment at the State so they can say go or no go to our Ordinance. That is what we really got in this case. Before the public hearing, Councilor Bradley asked Mr. Joseph to have somebody confirm that what we are asking is a modification of the DEP's interpretation of the Statute as opposed to the language of the Statute? Mr. Joseph noted that he can confirm 100% that we are asking to change our local Ordinance that needs to be blessed by DEP. It is not the State Law. It is our Ordinance that has been adopted in conformance with State Law. It is the way that most Shoreland Zoning Ordinances are written throughout the State actually.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Mr. Joseph advised that Staff is requesting that the following item be tabled. This is a three-town process that we have been involved in. Because of our Council schedule we thought we had to move on this. We do not and there is further discussion happening with the Towns of Brunswick and Yarmouth and the proposal brought to the three communities may be significantly different than this one. He and the Chief hope it will be significantly less in cost if they have a little bit of time to refine this. They are not in agreement and the disagreement came up after the agenda printed on Thursday.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To table Item # 12-21 indefinitely. (Reighley & Lawrence) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

~~ITEM #12-21 ————— To consider action relative to a bid award for new Pumper Tanker for the Fire Reseue Department.~~

~~**BE IT ORDERED:** That the bid be awarded to Allegiance Fire & Reseue for a new Pierce Freightliner 1250 GPM 2500 Gallon Pumper Tanker in the total amount of \$376,821.~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That the Town Council approve the use of the HGAC Cooperative Purchasing Program for this purchase.~~

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Note: The Town Council appropriated \$800,000 for this purpose in the FY21 Capital Budget.

Chair Egan explained that this last item on our action agenda is a follow-up to the discussion we had at our last meeting on Council Goals and Guidelines. The presentation at the last meeting was not inclusive of this group of seven Councilors' wishes for items on the Goals statements and guidelines. It has been slightly revised and circulated ahead of time. We had a list of Guiding Principles which were the focus of some of the edits between last meeting and this meeting as well as four primary Council Goals. He advised Mr. Joseph that the list is the one he got back to Chris Wolfe on Wednesday of last week. Councilors Bradley, Lawrence and Reighley indicated that they did not get a copy of it. Chair Egan mentioned that if none of us got it, maybe we won't be voting on it tonight.

While waiting for Mr. Joseph to bring it up on his screen, Chair Egan took the opportunity to remind everyone that we would be having a Special Election on March 9th. We will be voting on a Bond issue to provide support to cost share a 12-foot-wide bike and pedestrian lane extension on the bridges that cross 295 on Mallett Drive and Desert Road, Exit 20 and 22. We will be talking about it shortly and have information to share. It is part of a larger effort in our community called Connect Freeport. This will be the keystone event for Connect Freeport in terms of launching this idea and talking about how we can connect our residents from both sides of the Interstate in our community as well as anybody coming to visit our community to get to various assets that may be located east or west of the highway. The special Election on March 9th is to vote on the bond. There will be a website which we will preview in a few minutes that people can go to. An excellent idea from Joyce Veilleux earlier this evening to use text from these materials to write letters to the editor to get the public talking about this.

Councilor Reighley asked if there are any appointments in the Ordinance Committee for a third member? Chair Egan advised that he is the third member. He advised Councilor Lawrence that the *Statute* means the committees are legally in Statute so we have to make sure we put Council members on those committees. Mr. Joseph added that if they are the three Charter committees, the Council will have to vote to second the recommendation so that should be put on a future agenda to be noticed.

Chair Egan screen shared the document that is largely identical to what the Council saw at its last meeting. The text highlighted in yellow has been added in terms of our Council Goals and Guidelines. He pointed out the Guideline section. In talking about our diligence as stewards of the public's tax money and also wanted to identify the pressures of the pandemic as it relates to our income and expenses and how we adjust our mil rate. That language as suggested has been added and also our Guideline No. 3 in terms of talking about sustainability, we are also identifying climate change as a serious threat to our community and promote discussions with local and State organizations to identify mitigations and adaptation strategy. Chair Egan mentioned that they honed in on just three goals, an aging calendar matrix so we can track items brought before the Council and track their life span and decisioning and ultimate dispensing of our decision on the item and the Council will lead the process of revising the image and brand of Freeport to an inclusive diverse age-friendly community highlighting outdoor activities, experience and the arts. One of the key elements is going to be an effort called Connect Freeport and the first element will be coming up very shortly in our conversation on the bridge improvements. The third goal is to correlate with the convening of the committee that we affirmed earlier that Freeport is a welcoming and inclusive place to live and does not tolerate racism, prejudice or discrimination of any kind. In addition to the work product of the Equity Assessment Committee already formed, this core value will be reflected in the Town's public face communication channels and materials. That has not changed since the conversation last week. The only changes are the two highlighted in yellow.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Councilor Reighley suggested changing the second item where it says Connect Freeport and change it to read Connect Freeport is an example to make it a complete sentence.

Councilor Lawrence suggested moving Goal No. 3 to a Guideline because it is a principle we aspire to. It is more of a guiding principle. Chair Egan agreed that this one may be less measurable. Councilor Bradley wanted to give the people we just put on this committee the presence to know that the Council is going to be looking to them for measurable results on this important issue which suggests to him that we are looking for a result as opposed to just a principle to guide the Council in its debates and discussions. He would favor leaving it here. Councilor Reighley agreed with Councilor Bradley.

Councilor Piltch referred to Guide #2, and suggested changing *revisioning* to *re-envisioning*. Chair Egan agreed.

ITEM # 13-21 To consider action relative to adopting the 2021 Town Council Goals and Guidelines.

BE IT ORDERED: That the 2021 Town Council Goals and Guidelines be adopted. (Reighley & Piltch) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chair Egan advised that if members of the public indicate they would like to provide some public comment on the following items, the Council will take some limited public comments.

1. Review and comment on proposed Conceptual Site Plan for Town Hall beautification improvements, including landscaping, hardscaping, stormwater treatment, ADA Accessibility upgrades, and improved parking and circulation.

Chair Egan explained that the Council has already allocated some funds for this project. Town Engineer, Adam Bliss explained that he prepared a memo and a rendering of Town Hall. This project started almost a year ago when we were exploring stormwater treatment at Town Hall because of a Maine DEP grant we received. He started looking at some of the functionality of how the building is accessed in terms of enhancing ADA accessibility and making the building easier to get in and out of. During the budget process last year Council was receptive towards this beautification effort. He produced this rendering and a few members of the previous Municipal Facilities Committee endorsed it but we have new Council leadership so they wanted to give opportunity for this group to offer any comments they might have before they proceed to their design and preparation of bidding documents. He screen shared the rendering. Chair Egan asked him to highlight the actual elements that are new to the current layout the Council has because the rendering is a little hard to tell what is new and what is existing. Mr. Bliss noted that that is where it gets a little tricky. He started with a colored rendering and pointed out where Main Street is to the north. He pointed out the parking lot and the crosswalks. He noted that there are a lot of things crammed into the green space out front along Main Street that really is not visible. He pointed out the flag pole and the monument and mentioned we have an opportunity to better utilize that green space for a little mini park for people to sit on benches and around a

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

garden, etc. There is also an opportunity to resurface the walkways which are cracking but still have some life. They will need attention before too long. By improving these walkways and incorporating some retaining walls, we can eliminate steps and actually make it easier for people to get into and out of the building. This was a quick introduction to existing conditions.

Mr. Bliss swapped over to the proposed conditions which is the colored rendering that was provided. Mr. Joseph added that if you look at the front along Main Street of existing conditions which isn't up anymore, there is a set of steps from almost every direction to get down to the green space in front of Town Hall and you have to go all the way back to the driveway and then come all the way around towards the side entrance to Town Hall and back to the front if you want to get to that area. They found that it was not intentional but there are mobility issues there. The main entrance to the building is the side entrance and there are three steps with this ramp which is way out of the way that was put together in what seems as an afterthought. It seems really weird to have your main public building have this awkward ramp hanging off the side when that is the main entrance to the building.

Mr. Bliss advised that this is a concept plan. Landscape architects view these projects from a human element in terms of the functionality and balance in creating spaces that are inviting. He pointed out Main Street and the parking lot. There is one place where pedestrians can safely cross from the parking lot across the driveway. They are then left with a decision if they are going to the primary entrance or to the side entrance along the street. As they enter the main entrance, they are proposing some retaining walls which will allow them to build ramps and eliminate steps. He pointed out the current accessibility ramp which is awkward which has people go out of their way just to get into the building. Grade changes and retaining walls will greatly improve ADA accessibility. The focal point of the site is a nice green space for gathering in front of Town Hall along Main Street. They want to make these features more visible by moving the Armed Services Monument to where you cross from the parking lot and moving the flag pole over to the other side of the path. This will create opportunities in front of Town Hall with some re-worked walkways and ramps but no stairs and some nice granite benches as well as a green oval area that will be a retention area for stormwater. This will make better invitation to congregating areas.

Mr. Joseph pointed out that the only outdoor gathering space we have right now on the Town Hall property is a small picnic table tucked in the corner of the woods behind the employee entrance to Town Hall but looking out there, you can see people eating with their families or a committee having a meeting or someone resting with their bike. If you look at the front which is the part that fronts on Main Street, there is no use of that space at all. People want to use the outdoor space at Town Hall on Main Street but there is little to no use ever of that entire front yard of Town Hall. That is the motivation behind trying to make it a utilized space to accommodate the public.

Mr. Bliss pointed out that they are not looking for a total redesign of Town Hall. They want to enhance it and make it a more inviting place to congregate and to complement some of the beautification measures occurring on Main Street such as the Historical Society's work and the ACAF's work at the church. He offered to answer questions.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Vice Chair Whitney advised that she really likes it and is proud of the work that has been done. She asked where the handicap parking is located. Mr. Bliss assured her that there would be multiple ADA parking spots and pointed out where they would be located. She loved Mr. Joseph's thoughts on bringing people from the coffee shop to sit. She has dreamed of having a skating rink but is aware that the area is very tiny.

Councilor Reighley pointed out that the Facilities Committee did not have this come before them last year since they only met once and this was not one of the items. The Complete Streets Committee has designated one of the food vendor locations to be in front of Town Hall and asked where it is situated. Will the walkway going from the parking lot going across the entrance be provided with drainage so we don't have to continue to use the barge to get across when it rains? Mr. Bliss noted that they will be improving the drainage and the cracked walkways as part of this effort. About the public peddler cart, there is a spot reserved in front of Town Hall for public peddler cart applicants but no one has ever taken that spot. Mr. Joseph recalled that someone used it for two weeks once in the nine years he has been here but they abandoned it. Mr. Bliss advised that we have not had any applicants take out public peddler cart applications this year. Mr. Joseph pointed out that this design would not prohibit that. There is plenty of space that can be dedicated if there is an interest. Mr. Bliss agreed there is enough space.

Councilor Piltch mentioned that in a few minutes we are going to be hearing about a project about to be kicked off with the Principle Group and a lot of which is focused on re-envisioning what Main Street might look like in the future. Right now, as we walk south on Main Street, the retail field ends after the coffee shop so his hunch is that when we go through this process to talk about what the access through Town should look like, this is going to be a really key lot to consider. His question is should we wait a few months to say maybe there are going to be some bigger ideas that come out of this re-envisioning process and maybe we should move that parking lot behind the building to free up something fun and nifty on Main Street. He senses there might be something coming and it would be nice to have input before we go into a lot of detail in design. Mr. Bliss noted that that is great foresight and he appreciates that feedback. There isn't any rush on this project. If there were any time element to it, it would be to generate bidding documents out within the next month so we can at least get in front of contractors and in their schedule to receive competitive pricing. If we delay bidding the project, contractors' schedules would probably be full by May. There is no reason we can't put this off for a year until we receive the Principle Group's recommendations and FEDC's good work they are doing.

Vice Chair Whitney agreed but does not think it would have to be a year. She agreed with Councilor Piltch that with what we own for properties in town, it may be worth holding off a bit while we try to get input from Principle and what the Town's folks might see as good use there. She feels this project we are engaging in is going to be moving quickly.

Mr. Bliss explained that he has heard from previous Councilors about the visibility or attractiveness of the vacant lot which is on the other side of this lot and could things be done to that to complement Main Street and these other projects. Mr. Joseph explained that we have considered twice the possibility of co-joining the access and the parking for the two lots. That lot next door is owned by a local property owner and has had very limited discussions with us on shared parking between the lots and maybe reconfiguring both of the entrances. They were open

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

to the idea but there was never any discussion on what it would look like. There was a previous business proposal to develop the lot next door that was approved by the Project Review Board. Those kinds of conversations would depend on who the next-door neighbor ends up being when the lot is developed but other than our site plan that we can amend at any time, there is nothing requiring that that parking lot be in that configuration or location and this project would not mandate that it stay that way either. He is not suggesting to rush. He feels it is great to wait a little while. This would not preclude us from making changes to that parking lot in the future. We still think the main entrance to the building will always be the side entrance.

Councilor Reighley asked if we can restrict bidding on this to Freeport businesses? He believes we have 3 or 4 landscapers in Town. Mr. Joseph can suggest we give a local preference and the Council determine what that would be ahead of time but we need to be careful limiting to a local business because we might run a fowl of something. Mr. Bliss advised that he has developed relationships with landscaping contractors in the community and apprised them of this project because he wants them to be able to competitively bid on it. They are on his bidders' list. Mr. Joseph would never suggest limiting bids to locals because you would run into people who would sue you over those kinds of things eventually if you do it enough.

Councilor Lawrence advised that he likes the design and feels it is very good. He was going to mention but Councilor Piltch beat him to it. Moving the parking lot and changing the entrances would give more green space in there and we wouldn't have the safety issue of people crossing. We could make it more of a park area instead of having a road driving through the middle. He feels the design is welcoming. Mr. Joseph is wondering if there may be an old easement and that is why the driveway was located there originally. Mr. Bliss did not know how the design came about.

Councilor Bradley agrees with Councilor Piltch. He agrees that this property is critical to Main Street and also down to Depot Street to the Community Center. He agrees that we should at least have the Principle Group give an initial indication of what it is thinking before we go through and do a full redesign of this. He doesn't see any problem with just doing the front entrance the way it is set up. It doesn't implicate the rest but he doesn't know that so he says wait. Mr. Joseph noted there is no reason why this can't be on hold even if it goes off to next year. They were hoping it might inject some life into Main Street but they also do not want to jump the gun if there is a revitalization going on.

Mr. Bliss noted that if we can't get into the spring schedule, projects of this type can work quite well and bid competitively when constructed in the late fall and early winter, at least the hardscaping part of it with landscaping occurring the following season. We are smart people and we don't need to be rushed into this; do things right, on time and do them right every time.

Joyce Veilleux appreciates that moving the Veteran's Monument will put it in the mainstream. She would like to see along the path to the woodland gathering area, a covered picnic table type area so staff can have lunches, snacks and meetings out there. That is the best area for it. There was talk about using pollination plants and she hopes there will be discussions with the people from the Wild Seeds Project and you would be getting Maine native plants and those that are on the almost extinct list. They could be labelled so people will know what they are. She likes

Councilor Pilch's idea of not doing it now but giving it to Principle so they can see the flavoring of our ideas and maybe incorporate it in. There is no lighting shown on the paths and she suspects Principle will recommend some type of beautiful lamp posts for Main Street and you would want to incorporate the same thing and make sure those areas are well lit. She feels moving the parking lot will be expensive and she feels we need to prioritize what is it we really want to provide with this area and you only have so many dollars and since the driveway has been there since the school was used as a two-room school house, Mr. Joseph explained that this is kind of working and not doing any of the expensive changes. It is a lot of money we are talking about but at the same time it is really small in the scale of sitework because it is using a lot of the existing grades and things like that.

Chair Egan thanked Joyce and Mr. Bliss for the rendering. He feels we have heard enough feedback to where there is no urgency moving this to a bidding document phase anytime real soon. We want to have some other avenues for input.

2. Update on Village Strategic Planning Process

Vice Chair Whitney explained that Mr. Joseph has slides to show of what Mary Davis, President of FEDC and she are going to present to the Council tonight. She advised that they will be presenting to the Council at every meeting to keep the Council up to date on what is happening with the work being done with this group with Principle being the lead on this. This is really about bringing the townspeople together so the more they can talk about this and get the word out, the better off we all will be.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that we have officially entered Phase One of the Freeport Downtown Vision. They have had a lot of meetings leading up to this but it is exciting to have the roles officially starting to come together. This is a focus on downtown alone. It is not to take the place of the Freeport Comprehensive Plan. It is in the works but is not part of what we are doing right now. We are doing this for the downtown because it is an immediate need that we have and is to be completed now and it is prior to COVID. They will be bringing in stakeholders and community groups to get a better understanding of what the community's concerns, needs and hopes are for downtown. This plan has a short-term strategy of creating an action-oriented plan for downtown that addresses changes in behavior and needs due to COVID and changes in the Retail landscape and residents' desires. This plan also has a long-term strategy of creating a vision for downtown by creating a framework to help the Council, our Town and FEDC organize its resources, prioritize our investments and ultimately help to create an economic revived, walkable and happy place to live, work and shop. All this work will eventually feed into the Comprehensive Plan and all along this will be a collaboration between the Town Council, townspeople, FEDC, community and stakeholders but in the end the Town Council will be the decision maker on the outcomes. We are in Phase One and she is happy to report that we have some dates on the calendar. They are meeting almost every other day to define project teams and responsibilities. They are in the process of identifying a Steering Committee and that will be a combination of community members to get on board with that. If interested in being a part of that, Councilors can contact her or Mary Davis. On February 1 they will release a stakeholder survey and it will be a call to community members and the public. This is the phase where we are really going to get the word out to everyone in many different forms. On February 23 there will be a place making zoom workshop. All stakeholders will be invited to participate in this public workshop. On March 19-20 will be a COVID-friendly walk downtown for the public to help bring their visions in detail to life. On May 18 they will present to the Council what is coming out of all these meetings and what is coming out of people putting in their time and all their visions coming together. They hope to get this work done quickly.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Mary Davis pointed out that Mr. Bliss's picture of the Town Hall is a great example of the kind of visioning material that Principle does use in their workshops and walk about town. It will be very well used to help people see what is possible. In the past three weeks they have been working on the organization of the project and the roles and responsibilities of each of the groups. They have tried to define who is doing what and who is on which base to help them roll this thing out. They need to have everybody lined up in the beginning so she pointed out the line-up. The Town Council has been really important in putting this project together and providing great feedback. The responsibilities outlined are pretty much the responsibilities the Council asked them for the last time when they met with them. It is about you are the decision makers, the owners and you will also be responsible for some of the communication to the Town. The Council is the owner, is a communicator and is a high participant in this process. The Project Management Team is made up of a set of individuals who are also residents, Town Councilors and members of FEDC so it is a small working team. Their responsibilities are to get it done. They have committed to the Council that they are going to make this happen so it is the note reporting, communicating and regular updates to the Council. It is keeping the heartbeat of the project in gear. She advised that the two Town Councilors on this are spending a boatload of time doing it and so is the Town Manager.

Ms. Davis explained that the steering group is made up of individuals that are well known in the community. They are able to reach out to all the fingers of the community groups and get those groups interested in putting in their input. The Town owns and manages the contracts. Mr. Joseph is also on a project delivery team and will help them connect it into the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Community Connectors are a team of individuals they started to identify because they already had people contacting them saying they wanted to help which is wonderful. They will bring this group together to help them connect into all of the community as a whole. The Community Connector group/Steering Committee will be the folks who help Principle and the Project Team to bring information out to the many different organizations and to help bring information back in again.

The next slide shows a beginning list of all the community organizations, residents and businesses they know they need to reach out to get feedback on what they want Freeport to look like so the Community Connectors are individuals who will help them pull together these teams so that we have input from everybody on there. They will not be writing the surveys or writing materials. Principle will be doing that but they will work with them to make sure the surveys are what they want. The Project Team will be working on communication collaboration materials and things that go out but the Community Connectors will be like the glue of the community. They are the individuals who call on the phone and say, why haven't you filled out that survey? You fill it out. This is a little bit of definition on what Community Connectors are about.

The next slide shows what they heard loud and clear. Make sure there is a lot of public inclusion and public communication. They designed into the process of doing this that the public meetings will be every other week Town Council meetings which they will be doing updates at and they will provide a PowerPoint document that can be stored so that anybody can go back and look at it as well. There will also be the three milestone meetings that Vice Chair Whitney talked about. During April they will put all the information gathered to bring back to a public meeting in May which they would like to have as a Town Council sponsored open meeting on May 14. Then there will be a website that will have all this information on it that any other site that wants information can connect to. The Town's website can connect to it and FEDC can, Facebook groups, Freeport Friends, etc. They also know they need to put up some corporate communications to make sure they reach those that don't have technology in front of them and also get coverage in *The Forecaster*, etc. like they did before.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

That is just an overview of where they are at this point. They are in the process of pulling the Stakeholder/Connector Teams together, getting the surveys done, getting their interview questions together so that on February 1 they have at least three weeks of collecting surveys before the first placemaking workshop.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that this is just the beginning and they will be tweaking and altering it as they go forward. Chair Egan felt this was an excellent update. He can't wait to get into some of those workshop meetings with the community. He asked Ms. Davis to be prepared that there may be some attendees coming to those meetings that have already contacted him that are going to come with a list of things they are already focusing on and prior to this convening, the Town has had a number of gatherings and input sessions at the Community Center over the past five years where people have articulated what the community wants and where it wants to go and some of those folks tend to be residents who have been here a while and are looking at the larger picture where consultants come and go but their needs are still here. He is just putting this out as a heads up. He loves the enthusiasm and Principle is new to Freeport so they will be getting to know people. There are a lot of good opinions and concerned folks who have been really deeply engaged in the direction our community is going. Vice Chair Whitney added that this is exactly what they want. Councilor Reighley asked if it is possible to get this material in our packets in a hard copy before a presentation. Vice Chair Whitney would be happy to give the Council what they have that is current as of Thursday. Councilor Reighley thanked her.

Councilor Bradley felt it was a great presentation and it incorporates 98.76% of all the comments they received. He asked how Connect Freeport fits in with their website idea? Ms. Davis noted that she understands Connect Freeport is a group of individuals that are trying to make sure that the bike and pedestrian trails are working for Freeport and they have to be included as an input source for that. As they talked to Principle about what we want downtown to be is a connected downtown so they need to have their input and that is a group that needs to be added on.

Chair Egan advised that they of Connect Freeport is who Ms. Davis is looking at. At this point, Connect Freeport is an effort more than it is a group. If we had to put names and faces, it would be members of our Active Living and Complete Streets Committees championing these projects. In terms of an organized group around that effort, it hasn't really convened yet. Our next item is the first step of public education and advocacy for the March 9th Bond Vote on the cost sharing participation by the Town on the bridge improvements being constructed by MDOT. We were able to engage with GPCOG to work on building a website and a foundation of an education campaign and materials for us as Councilors and advocates for this project as well as other members of the public to start sharing. He briefly wanted to give an update this evening and have Carly Peruccio who is a Staff at GPCOG and is a wizard behind the material you are about to see. It is an opportunity for us to see what we can do when we get into a partnership with an organization like GPCOG for specific things. Ultimately the message here is that we are going to be able to direct anybody who has questions about the bridges, the project, what is Connect Freeport, why are we voting in March, how much does this cost, why does MDOT gives us such a short timeframe? All of those questions will be up on this website so Ms. Davis will have this resource at her fingertips to be able to share with people about why this is such a good idea. If we miss this timing, it is another 75 years until we can get a handle on doing something with these bridges. That is the number one argument for the urgency of it.

3. Presentation of draft Connect Freeport Website

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Carly Peruccio from GPCOG displayed her educational website to give more information on the upcoming vote. She provided a quick tour to the Council and mentioned that she will be designing some graphics. She offered to answer any questions.

Council Piltch mentioned he knows that it looks easy but he recognizes that a lot of thought and work has gone into this and he feels she has done a really nice job in organizing the information. He also liked the story map from Adam Bliss and thanked them both.

Councilor Reighley noted that this is a true support of what GPCOG's capabilities are and that the Town can call upon them to put these things into play. This will be very helpful moving it forward.

Chair Egan thanked Carly and noted that Councilor Daniele has agreed to help also be a liaison and a network node on the Council for the effort. We have a number of different channels that we are going to be spreading this information through but having everybody keep coming back to this website which we can continue to update and provide latest information on is the plan and hopefully, momentum builds through February and the first few days of March about the election and why we are voting in March, etc. people can go to this page and get that information and Councilors can feel free to take excerpts of the text that is on these pages and use it through their channels as well. He thanked Carly, it is really impressive and fabulous to go from a concept discussion in early December to a quick layout of the key elements we wanted to communicate to having this in front of us by the middle of January. It is a fantastic timeframe.

Vice Chair Whitney added that this is a fantastic job. She loves the website. She feels Freeport has so many fantastic resources here and it is really well done. She thanked Carly.

Sally Walsh indicated she had two points to make and see if they could be something put on the Connect Freeport webpage. The West side of Freeport is the side of Freeport that is being developed a lot so they wanted to make sure that the people that live on the other side of 95 was able to connect to Town. When you look at this particular webpage, it seems to concentrate on the bikes and she recalled an elderly person saying to her when she was trying to talk about accessibility, "you are not one of those awful bike people are you?" There is that mentality that everything is for the bikers so she would like to see on the pedestrian part a family with a baby carriage and an elder with a cane or something that would incorporate the pedestrian aspect of it and connecting one side of Freeport to the other and back and forth.

Chair Egan and Vice Chair Whitney thanked Sally for her great feedback.

Joyce Veilleux indicated that she loved the website. One of the things about connecting all of Freeport is also our hiking trails and being able to connect from one trail to another. If you go to the Freeport Conservation Trust's website, they have a map of all their trails in Freeport. We actually have hundreds of miles of trails and we need to do more with Florida Lake which is Town-owned and a resource not marked. It is one of the best birding spots in the State because of the marsh lands that are there. She feels it should be added so we can start promoting it also.

Chair Egan added that the Connect Freeport page that we made here is focused on getting people to understand the bridge improvements and why we are voting in March but the page lives on and doesn't go away on March 10. It allows us to add features and use it to focus on connectivity around the community hopefully after we have approved the bond vote for the cost sharing.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

Councilor Bradley mentioned that it occurs to him that a lot of opinion in Town is affected by what people think and he asked if there would be an appropriate place for people to support this and indicate endorsement in an endorsement section for people who like it can say why and influence others? Carly was glad Councilor Bradley brought this up. She referred to the bottom of the page and noted there is space there for signing up for updates and also a contact form. She imagined that the contact form would be to have a record of people in Town interested in learning more about possible future projects, too. She feels this would be a way of getting a list of people and the contact us form could serve a function of what Councilor Bradley phrased for people to share feedback. She could add additional text to make it clear here about the kind of information you are hoping to get from people. She sees that as a possible space for that. Councilor Bradley advised that there are a lot of folks that are influenced by people they know in the community that know more about this stuff than they do and if those people have a place on this page to indicate their support for this project, it would be helpful. This will go on Facebook. Councilor Piltch asked who would get those e-mails if people do fill out the contact us form? Carly noted she would have to discuss this with Adam Bliss and Chair Egan but at the moment her e-mail is the contact but she can also make other accounts so someone from the Town could monitor it too. Councilor Lawrence asked when this would be going live. Chair Egan advised that it is a live website now and we will continue to update it and make a couple of final tweaks here. It will be talked about and promoted by the end of this week. Councilor Lawrence added that if we are going to list comments, he feels we should have a review of them before going out to the public. Chair Egan agreed.

Vice Chair Whitney mentioned that she is a big fan of Page 2 with the map and about Connecting Freeport. She asked if we would be allowed to share that map on the website that they are creating for the Downtown re-envisioning? Carly indicated that they would and she would work with her on the scrolling function. Andy Spaulding advised Carly that this is amazing. He chairs the Active Living Committee and finds this exciting. He had one piece of feedback thinking about Sally Walsh's comment about inclusivity and all forms of activity. Perhaps on the home page when one scrolls to why connect Freeport, there is a nice sentence that Councilor Daniele gets credit for having written talking about accommodating walking, running, biking and wheel chairs, maybe that sentence could be broadened to a really prominent place like the blue banner and it might make a difference, he is not sure. He thanked Carly for doing this because they have been talking about it for 4 ½ years and she did it in a couple of weeks. Carly indicated that she liked the comments about making sure the photos are inclusive and that all community members will be using these paths. She will discuss this with Chair Egan and perhaps Councilors have really great photos. Having a personal Freeport touch would be an upgrade. She will find a way to make that happen. Chair Egan thanked Carly again as well as Tom Bell of GPCOG.

4. Discussion of local participation in COVID-19 vaccination effort.

Chair Egan mentioned that the Council heard a bit of a summary update from the Town Manager during the Manager's Report about our possible participation in the COVID-19 vaccination efforts and if there is an opportunity for a Municipal organized clinic and/or location. We have some proposed text from Councilor Bradley for a resolution so we can identify the community as being ready if we are asked to do that.

Councilor Bradley explained that the context started with what Mr. Joseph put up earlier. There are 134,000 doses allocated to the State of Maine of which by today, 70,000 have actually ended up in arms. That gives rise to the question of is the rollout going quickly enough? We are all reading about that in places we access for news. When you dig down, you hear from various sources that although everyone has the best intentions, there is a bottleneck and part of it has to do with human resources to inject and part of it has to do with spaces that can be organized to do it safely. When we raised this the last time, we asked Mr. Joseph if we had the resources to help out here. He mentioned that he talked to these agencies

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

and we are waiting to hear from them whether or not they need us. Councilor Bradley's experience in life is that the more you wait, the less you hear and you want to be heard and you want to make sure that no vaccine goes undelivered and no resident dies because there is something on a shelf. You tell the agencies planning this that we have the resources that can help and do not want to see any of this vaccine to go unused and you are willing to provide the resources you have. There are a lot of people 75 and older who have been told these are the places you can go to sign up and make appointments but none of them are taking appointments with maybe one exception. The number of people who have gotten a vaccination in this town that he knows he can count on one hand. The reason is that the places that are being given the vaccine do not have the space for the people lined up. We may be able to supplement that. He spoke to a person that felt strongly that if the Bartol Building and 3 or 4 of our EMTs, Mid-Coast Hospital would be open to hearing that that would be a great resource for them to have available for their use in getting vaccine out to the mid coast. He thinks this resolution does no harm as long as we are respectful of those that really have the responsibility to plan this and could provide an invitation for them to use resources they may be looking for. That is the reason for the resolution and he has no ownership in it. It is up to the Council.

Mr. Joseph added that he and Chief Jordan went to Freeport Community Services and requested the use of their large meeting room for this use if we are given the opportunity. They have gotten a tentative okay on that. They have done research on the staffing level for a vaccination station which is recommended at 15 people which would have to be provided between registration, the administration of the vaccine and the EMT to watch for anaphylaxis afterwards. The only requirement afterwards would be a paramedic, doctor or nurse watching for anaphylactic shock. If this is something we could easily do or get together. The logistics would be a nightmare and as you can see, the State can't handle it. That is all a different question. He would have no concern volunteering to do any of this stuff. He feels the likelihood of approving Municipal stations is very low. He wanted to be clear so people don't have hope that this is ultimately going to happen. There is no harm in making this resolution and recommending these things and passing them on to the State, the medical places administering the vaccines and it is something we should be doing. He has low hope of it happening but his pessimism is the only thing standing in the way at this point. Chair Egan asked who would we send this to? Mr. Joseph advised that the CDC is calling the shots right now and making the decisions. Councilor Reighley advised that if this is approved, it should be handed over to Representative Sachs and let her take it to the State and let her distribute it to the appropriate places. Chief Jordan explained that Fire Departments throughout the State have been participating in the vaccination of other First Responders and that has been set up through the County EMA directives. Scarborough, Gorham and Portland are the vaccinators for all of us in Cumberland County. He understands that now is a matter of getting the vaccine. That is a clerical allocation and to his knowledge as of last week there wasn't any vaccine in Maine for the 1-As to be finished. He is waiting for having the balance of his firefighters finished. He believes that the programs that Maine Health has set up through the CDC is also waiting for vaccines to come into the State. He noted that he has let Cumberland County EMA know that we would be pleased to assist and that the Freeport Community Services would work. He feels that works best out of anything we have in Town. He feels it is a matter of getting to the political people to put pressure on the people who are going to be deciding where the vaccines are going to be delivered. What they are doing now just isn't working and he doesn't know if the plan through Maine Health will work better or not. He explained that the vaccines do not come in a single-dose vial. They come in a vial that has ten shots in it and if you can't get multiples of ten, you end up wasting vaccine. Councilor Reighley noted he sees no difficulty with the proposed resolution and asked Councilor Bradley if he would like to go forward with it. Councilor Bradley noted all we can do is offer this and if we save one life, it seems raising our hands in favor of this resolution is well worth doing. Chief Jordan added that they will do all they can to assist. Councilor Bradley wants to do this and moved the question.

COUNCIL MEETING #02-21
JANUARY 19, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED: To take up an item not on the printed agenda.
(Bradley & Whitney) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

WHEREAS the COVID pandemic poses a serious threat to the health and welfare of the residents of Freeport, and

WHEREAS the development of vaccines offers protection to Freeport residents from the disease; and,
WHEREAS providing Freeport residents the benefit provided by the vaccine requires the effective vaccination of its residents, and

WHEREAS the Town of Freeport has both trained personnel and public space necessary to administer the vaccine to its residents as soon as it is available;

THEREFORE:

The Freeport Town Council urges the Governor of the State of Maine, the Maine CDC, and other relevant agencies of the State to make full use of the Town's resources to ensure its residents are vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available and that no time is lost in reliance on other means of vaccination unless the State is confident that using those means will result in the more rapid vaccination of the residents of our community.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adopt the resolution as printed and revised as needed.
(Bradley & Reighley)

Councilor Pilch added that he supports the resolution and agrees with Mr. Joseph that it may or may not happen but there is no harm in offering. It could be a signal to other towns that Freeport is doing this, where are you guys and if more and more people offer people and places, it would be good for the State. It would be a good encouragement for the CDC as well.

Vice Chair Whitney noted her support for this. She understands that this population has had to be more isolated than the younger generation. Councilor Reighley suggested giving it to Representative Sachs and Senator Daughtry. Chair Egan felt this was a great idea and hopes they can get it through the administration and get it to the CDC.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Councilor Bradley could see no reason to not send a copy to the list of hospitals that are designated to provide this so they know if they run into a problem, they can contact us. Chief Jordan offered to get together with Mr. Joseph tomorrow to get something in writing now that the resolution has been passed to Christine Jenkins the CDC liaison for Cumberland County and in writing to Cumberland County EMA that the Town is serious about doing this and maybe it will gain some traction. Mr. Joseph suggested giving it to Christine with a copy for the Governor's Office and also distribute it far and wide to everybody else. Chief Jordan will send a copy to the Mid Coast Hospital.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 9:41 P.M. (Reighley & Lawrence) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary