

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #20-21 AND DISTRICT 1 AND 2 WORKSHOP
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
30 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
6:30 p.m.

<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 Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	x		
Tawni Whitney, 56 Baldwin Road (Vice Chair)	x		

Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He took attendance and noted that Councilor Daniele as well as the Town Manager are excused this evening. Councilor Bradley will be arriving later. He explained how members of the public would be able to participate at various times during the meeting.

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 #19-21 held on September 7, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #19-21 held on September 7, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Lawrence & Whitney)

VOTE: (4 Ayes) (2 Excused-Bradley & Daniele) (0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

Chair Egan announced:

- **Absentee ballots for the November 2, 2021 Election can be requested by contacting the Town Clerk's Office at 865-4743 x 122 or 123 or going to www.maine.gov.** Ballots requested now will be mailed the first week of October. Starting October 4, voters may vote in person at Town Hall. More information on absentee voting can be found at www.freeportmaine.com
- **Freeport Conservation Trust's 2021 Freeport Trail Challenge is on!** Hike the four specified Freeport trails and you will win a prize.

Passport Books are available at Freeport Town Hall, Casco Bay YMCA and the Freeport Community Library. You can also print your own passport at freeportconservationtrust.org; you can have your passports mailed to you by calling the Freeport Conservation Trust at 865-3985x212; and you can also enter by sending FCT pictures of yourself and/or your dog on each trail at info@freeportconservationtrust.org.

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For the safety of everyone, please keep your distance from other parties in parking areas and on trails. Leash your dog and wear masks if other people are around.

- Public Works Department currently has two job openings. Interested applicants should contact Judith Hawley at 865-4743 x119 for more information. Job postings are also available on the Town website.
- Freeport Community Library news:
 1. Join Taylor for OUTDOOR STORYTIME. Mondays and Thursdays at 10:15 & 10:45. Limited to first 20. Runs September 9th-October 21st.
 2. Need internet access at home? Try checking out one of our unlimited high-speed T-Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and connect up to 10 devices at a time.
 3. The library is now open on Saturdays 10-2!

Councilor Lawrence advised that we have live theatre in Freeport at the Freeport Performing Arts Center. The Freeport Players are doing Black Coffee. This will be the last weekend they are doing the show. They did it last weekend. It will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's Matinee is scheduled at 2 p.m. He urged residents to come on out.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Councilor Piltch advised that he liaised with the Conservation Commission. They have been very busy taking care of all our public lands. One of the things that came up at their meeting was exploring whether or not we want a dog park in Town. They are exploring the pros and cons and where it might go and how it might get taken care of. If anyone is interested in an upcoming conversation, let him know or let anyone on the Conservation Commission know. They will see if they can make it happen.

Chair Egan noted that that topic came up during various visioning sessions earlier this year so he thinks there will be a lot of interest in it.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that we have been contacted by the New England Mountain Bikers Association. They are interested in the connectivity that we have mountain bikes all around us but there is actually a void in connection right here in Freeport. As a group they have met a few times and it is actually coming together really well and it is sort of low hanging fruit that we have Hedgehog Mountain and there are areas of that that wouldn't interrupt any of the walking trails but would allow mountain bikers to enter into Freeport. What is also great, putting on her economic hat, this is also great for Freeport. It is good for Freeport year-round but the time of year she is particularly concerned about is in the winter months, January to June. With the introduction of fat tire bikes, this would really be a great boost for all of Freeport's downtown and a great thing. As we do the revisioning, we are talking about who we are as Freeport. We are no longer an outlet town. We love the ones that are here but we are changing so accepting the fact we are changing and embracing who we are and what we have as natural assets and she thinks this fits in very well with that. We will continue to go forward with this project. The next steps are to rough out what it will look like. If anyone wants to be involved in raking, they are accepting volunteers and then doing a Site Walk. She will update the Council on all of that as it goes forward but it seems like a great opportunity for Freeport. The NEMBA group has complimented the Town Council and particularly Mr. Joseph because usually there are challenges to convince the Council that this is a good economic thing for the Town and they were able to skip that in Freeport.

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Vice Chair Whitney noted she wanted to talk a bit about the Re-visioning Project and mentioned that FEDC President Mary Davis is here. She explained that her favorite project is the pop-up skate park. Her children were not skaters before but they are now. She finds it refreshing to go down to the park and see all these kids outside skating and having fun. Adults are enjoying it as well. She feels this is what we all want for kids to get outside, be healthy and have a place to go. It is not CVS and there is no reason for CVS to be the top place for kids to go. She feels this has been a huge addition to our community and is an amazing gift we have downtown.

Ms. Davis introduced herself and noted she has been heading up this Freeport Downtown Re-visioning Project along with a group of folks that include Freeport Councilors, and folks from Freeport. They are through Phase One where they took a lot of input from a lot of individuals and from that they decided to try what folks said they wanted. The kids said they wanted some place to meet so they tried a pop-up skate board park and it is getting a lot of use. The other two things the Council may have seen is the Hot Dog Park and the Pizza Park. One is on Main Street and the other is behind Starbucks. People said they wanted places to be, to just sit or just hang. They have found that those two locations are literally used all of the time. As we go into the next phases of the project, first they did a little reflection on the summer. Guess what? It was busy this summer and our businesses said it was busy but we shouldn't take our feet off the pedal of the Downtown Re-visioning. We did have a great summer and are appreciative of that but they feel they still need to go forward with the strategy of what we want it to look like in the future and how we start getting the things we want. When they come back to the Council in two weeks, the Strategy Group will have been working and this COVID thing is not quite over. They had planned to bring a big public meeting together and have big discussions but realized they can't do that yet. The Strategy Group is now in the process of redefining how we do those meetings in person and make sure we have safety for the people involved and we get the output we want. In two weeks, the Council will hear the process, procedure and timing as they go into the second and third phase which is all about taking input, drawing it into pictures and coming out with exact plans of what we do and where we go from here. That is where they are on the strategy plan. There is a lot of work being put into it. They just want to keep everyone safe. They don't want people to show up for a big public meeting and then have a COVID outbreak.

Chair Egan noted he feels it is fabulous to see these things popping up around town. He has been getting good feedback on them.

Chair Egan advised that coming up on our Cable Channel will be a Sustainability video on how individuals as well as communities can prepare for changes going on in the climate and making plans to actually try to mitigate some of the effects of climate change. It is an educational video coming up on our Cable Channel soon. He did not know the exact date but mentioned it is an interesting timing because it is coinciding with a number of things going on in the community related to just getting a better understanding and awareness of just what is climate change, what is actually going on and what can people in the community as well as the community itself do to prepare for, and potentially help mitigate some of the dynamics going on. We will have a conversation at the end of the agenda with a little more detail on that but he wanted to mention it up front.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report - (Mr. Joseph was excused this evening)

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

Deputy Chief of Freeport Fire Paul Conley explained that he looked forward to being here to share some wonderful news. The crew he has here tonight may have had one of those once in a lifetime events. They generally see a lot of illness, injuries, etc. This particular event occurred a year ago in October but this is

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the first opportunity they have had to give some recognition to this crew. Basically, you may never ever get the chance to deliver a baby. He has had that opportunity once in his career. While it can be the most fulfilling experience, it is probably the scariest experience you will ever endure. He read a paragraph into the public record and the crew will get a letter from the State's EMS Office that will go into their training packets and be part of their permanent record. They will also get a stork pin. The paragraph was as follows:

On October 10, 2020 at approximately 9:17 a.m. Freeport Fire/Rescue responded to a woman in active labor. During the course of this response the crew successfully delivered a newborn baby girl and provided life-saving measures and escorted her to the Northern Light Mercy Hospital in Portland for further treatment. The care and assurance of safe transport represent all the ideals of Emergency Medical Professionals. In recognition the Maine EMS awards a stork pin to the following individuals: Scott Smith, Thomas Parenteau, Jason Cass and Ken Stilkey. Michael Hanson could not be here tonight.

Deputy Chief Conley pointed out that not only were they taking care of one, they were taking care of two and requires the effort and teamwork. Sometimes it requires another ambulance and another crew because these things can be fast paced and challenging. By all indications, everything was positive and these guys might never see another opportunity in their lifetime so it will be a memory that will last forever. He thanked the Council for their time. He appreciated having the opportunity to recognize this crew publicly.

Chair Egan asked what is still the most memorable part of that morning? He was told that there were some challenges and not anything they were prepared for in school. They had a very sick infant initially but they did very well. Women have been having babies for thousands of years and it is no big deal and you will get through it until the baby is blue and has a cord wrapped around its neck. They were able to take good care of that. Chair Egan thanked them.

There were no additional comments provided so Chair Egan closed the public participation item and moved forward on the agenda.

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

ITEM # 176-21 To consider action relative to adopting the September 21, 2021 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the September 21, 2021 Consent Agenda be adopted.

Chair Egan identified ITEM #192-21 and removed it since we have an adjustment to make on that.

BE IT ORDERED: That the September 21, 2021 Consent Agenda be adopted minus ITEM #192-21. (Lawrence & Piltch) **VOTE:** (4 Ayes) (2 Excused-Bradley & Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan explained that the reason he asked to have Item #192-21 removed is because we have had some last-minute changes on some of the nominations to our committees. A candidate for the Project Review Board has asked to have his name withdrawn so that will come off. We actually have an addition past the publishing deadline here but it is an opportunity for a prior Chair of the Conservation Commission, Ryan Burke to get reappointed. We don't want to miss the opportunity if Mr. Burke is willing to serve more time on the commission after all of his dedicated years. It was just the way the sequence worked; we want to take action to get Ryan Burke back on the Conservation Commission.

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ITEM #192-21 To consider action relative to the following appointment to the Conservation Commission.

BE IT ORDERED: That Ryan Burke be appointed to the Conservation Commission. (Lawrence & Piltch) **VOTE:** (4 Ayes) (2 Excused-Bradley & Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 177-21 To consider action relative to awarding a contract to Allegiance Fire and Rescue in the amount of \$648,495.00 for a new Fire Truck. PUBLIC HEARING

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the Public Hearing. (Piltch & Lawrence)
VOTE: (4 Ayes) (2 Excused-Bradley & Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan advised that the budget for this particular item was decided earlier this summer and is actually being paid for out of a reserve account so there is no net new tax burden other than the ongoing capitalization of our reserve accounts. The Fire Department is using its reserve execution of a well-planned capital schedule to purchase this item.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To close the Public Hearing. (Piltch & Lawrence)
VOTE: (4 Ayes) (2 Excused-Bradley & Daniele) (0 Nays)

BE IT ORDAINED: That Allegiance Fire and Rescue be awarded a contract in the amount of \$648,495 for a new Fire Truck.

Note: Appropriation # 103-21 The Town Council appropriated \$800,000 for this project in the FY2020 Capital Budget. The current balance in the Fire Equipment Reserve account is \$446,773. This balance is before year-end adjustments/transfers.

Chair Egan asked if there is anything further we should know before taking action on voting for this? Deputy Chief Sylvain asked Chair Egan what he wanted to know? Chair Egan advised for the general public he asked him to provide a bit of detail about what this piece of equipment does for the department and what equipment it is replacing. Deputy Chief Sylvain advised that this pumper tanker will replace two vehicles they have now. They looked at stats, call volume and their membership and all sat down to figure out what direction to go in to utilize apparatus better and not have to spend \$800,000 every 20 years. They decided to look at a pumper tanker. The big thing for them is that they will be going down one engine. It doesn't change anything, doesn't change response and it doesn't change their insurance rate. It just helps them combine two pieces of apparatus into one. There will be less maintenance cost. It has pros going in this direction. They went with a custom cab. The old tanker is now a two-fire fighter commercial cab. This one will be a four-fire fighter custom cab.

Councilor Bradley arrived at 6:58 p.m.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM# 178-21 To consider action relative to amendments to Chapter 39: Loitering, Curfew and Noise of the Freeport Town Ordinances. PUBLIC HEARING

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the Public Hearing. (Whitney & Piltch)

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VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan explained that there is material on the table that was circulated in the Council's packets last week and has been available on our website. He explained that the Ordinance Committee worked with the public to come up with a draft and then finalized these changes with review and discussion with the Town Attorney. There are additional amendments that go along with this that were brought forward which will be added to the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance actions taken by the Planning Board. The Town Attorney will provide guidance on those amendments and the Planning Board will discuss them at its October meeting. There are two components to this action to amend specifically noise descriptions in our ordinance. We are voting on some of it tonight and there is a component that will go to our Planning Board to take a look at it at their October meeting.

There were no public comments provided.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To close the Public Hearing. (Whitney & Piltch)
VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

BE IT ORDAINED: That amendments to Chapter 39, Loitering, Curfew and Noise of the Freeport Town Ordinances be enacted. (Whitney & Piltch)

Chair Egan advised that we have the language as prepared by the Town Planner and the Ordinance Committee has had a number of meetings. It took a fair amount of time to get through that process and they came forward with some recommendations. Chair Egan sits on the Ordinance Committee and they had participation with our Attorney to align some of the language that follows the rest of the Ordinance so it is consistent. The thrust of this is to further define what constitutes a noise violation as brought forward by members of the public who have been experiencing a negative impact because they didn't have a channel in order to bring forward a complaint about activities. They have largely adopted those suggestions and you will see that in your packet. We have had a fair amount of conversation at the Ordinance Committee. The residents have been extremely patient with that process and he appreciates and thanks them for that. We are finally here to take action on making this amendment and the separate piece to go to the Planning Board is already in action.

Councilor Piltch thanked the two members of the public that had an issue, put some thought into how to resolve the issue, brought it forward and stuck with us through the extraordinarily long time it took to shepherd it through. He appreciates their taking the effort and showing that it can be done and led by residents. He thanked them for their patience. To set some context for the record, part of the issue was some extended very loud heavy construction activity that was going on that was exceptionally burdensome for people that live by an area where there is a lot of development like a subdivision going in. This will be going on for many days and weeks and we didn't have a way to address it but he thinks we will after tonight. That was the spark behind it. It had some rough edges and we put together something that will pass legal muster and applies to all kinds of disturbing noises.

Councilor Bradley mentioned that he has been approached by some students interested in knowing how to relax noises around the high school field. He asked how this affects that so he can at least tell them what is going on? Councilor Piltch feels the Town Planner would be a better person to answer that. As he understands it, there were specific regulations that were part of the approval for the Site Plan at the high school. This did not intend to alter what was going on at the high school but we would probably have to go and look at the site plan that was approved and what the conditions were. Councilor Lawrence noted that it is right here in Section 10 but it is after 10 o'clock and most kids don't go that long. Councilor

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Piltch added that it is an oddly written ordinance and there is a long list of things that the ordinance doesn't apply to. As you read along, No. 10 makes an exception for noise for athletic events as regulated by the Zoning Ordinance. Chair Egan advised Councilor Bradley that the details that Councilor Piltch pointed out of what might happen in or around the high school are much more specifically covered in the Zoning Ordinance and the permit that that project received when it was built. That is probably the better place as opposed to looking at this ordinance.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 179-21 To consider action relative to approving proposed amendments to Chapter 46: General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A- H for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. PUBLIC HEARING

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the Public Hearing. (Bradley & Piltch)
VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan explained that this is a public hearing on changes to our regulation regarding the administration of public assistance. Largely this is to bring our GA administration in line with State regulations. Mr. Joseph provided an explanation that from time to time the State changes its rules of administration. This is State money that the Town distributes for those in need and we have to periodically update our regulations as it relates to the administration of these funds and the language that is in the memo from the Manager that is in our packets explains those changes. Anyone wishing to add comments or changes, this is the time to come forward. There were no public comments received.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To close the Public Hearing. (Bradley & Piltch)
VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan pointed out that the Council made a move to outsource the administration of General Assistance through a contract arrangement with Freeport Community Services so we are going to be in the process of transitioning that with the Staff retirement of Johanna Hanselman. As part of that contractual arrangement, we want to be sure we have the right regulations in place.

BE IT ORDAINED: That amendments to Chapter 46: General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A- H for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 be enacted. (Bradley & Piltch) **VOTE:** (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 180-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Freeport Zoning Ordinance pertaining to State mandated Shoreland Zoning regulations. Text amendments are proposed to the following sections: Section 104. Definitions; Section 201. General Restrictions; Section 202. Non-Conformance; Section 203. Changes and Amendments; Section 302. Zoning Map; Section 303. Zoning District Boundaries; Section 304. Map Corrections - Shoreland Zone and Resource Protection District (to be repealed); Section 401. Purpose and Land Use Controls; Section 402. Rural Residential District I and Rural Residential District IA; Section 403. Rural Residential District II; Section 409. Commercial District I; Section 422. Industrial District II; Section 426. Island District; Section 507. Shoreland Zone Regulations; Section

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601. Enforcement; and Section 602. Site Plan Review. Some additional non-substantive text amendments are proposed throughout the Ordinance to correct typographical errors and to incorporate gender-neutral pronouns.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for October 5, 2021 at the Town Council meeting starting at 6:30 pm to discuss proposed amendments to the Freeport Zoning Ordinance pertaining to State mandated Shoreland Zoning regulations. Text amendments are proposed to the following sections: Section 104. Definitions; Section 201. General Restrictions; Section 202. Non-Conformance; Section 203. Changes and Amendments; Section 302. Zoning Map; Section 303. Zoning District Boundaries; Section 304. Map Corrections - Shoreland Zone and Resource Protection District (to be repealed); Section 401. Purpose and Land Use Controls; Section 402. Rural Residential District I and Rural Residential District IA; Section 403. Rural Residential District II; Section 409. Commercial District I; Section 422. Industrial District II; Section 426. Island District; Section 507. Shoreland Zone Regulations; Section 601. Enforcement; and Section 602. Site Plan Review. Some additional non-substantive text amendments are proposed throughout the Ordinance to correct typographical errors and to incorporate gender-neutral pronouns.

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. (Lawrence & Piltch)

Chair Egan shared some context from the Town Planner. This particular item pertains to updating our Ordinance to comply with State-required Shoreland Zoning regulations which were adopted by the State in 2015. Some additional non-substantive text amendments are proposed throughout the Ordinance to correct the typographical errors and correct gender-neutral pronouns. Mike Morse from the Morse Environmental Consulting firm will be at our next meeting to give a brief overview before we take action on this item. We are just introducing this for a public hearing in two weeks on October 5 so as our usual process, we introduce an item, make it public and provide the materials and then have a public hearing at our following meeting for substantive conversation and eventual action. We are just setting the table for this one. There will be plenty more chances to talk about it at our next meeting.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 181-21

To consider action relative to setting a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Official Zoning Map for the Town of Freeport (pertaining to Shoreland Zoning).

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for October 5, 2021 at the Town Council meeting starting at 6:30 pm to discuss regarding proposed amendments to the Official Zoning Map for the Town of Freeport (pertaining to Shoreland Zoning).

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.

Note: The boundaries of the Shoreland Zone, as regulated by State law, will be updated. Many areas previously designated as Resource Protection I are being amended to "shoreland area". Areas within coastal flood plains will remain in Resource Protection however will not be shown on the map, as the boundaries will be based upon the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Flood Insurance Rate Maps, as adopted by the Town Council. (Piltch)

Chair Egan explained that the map that is being updated as part of the Shoreland Zoning updates will be covered under this item at the public hearing. The boundaries of the Shoreland Zone as regulated by State law will be updated on the map. Many areas previously designated as RP-I are being amended to shoreland areas and coastal flood plains will remain in Resource Protection but will not be shown on the map as the boundaries will ultimately be updated to reflect the FEMA flood insurance rate map as we adopt it. The last digital version of the zoning map was adopted in 2013, more than seven years ago. Any map amendments approved by the Council since that time have been incorporated into this map. We are catching up on a number of changes related to the designation of Shoreland Zone. It is the primary emphasis of this item. We are setting a public hearing for further discussion at our next meeting.

Councilor Piltch advised that the order was not seconded. Councilor Lawrence seconded it.

Chair Egan advised that the Town Planner will be here at our next meeting both before and after the public hearing to explain the map and impacts on Shoreland Zone property owners.

Councilor Bradley noted we are doing a number of things to make our Ordinance consistent with State law. Who is it in the Town that is making the determination that what we have needs updating or changes to be consistent with State law? Is it Staff doing that or our Attorney doing that? How does it work? Chair Egan did not know the answer to that but he believes it starts with Staff and probably the language is in consultation with the Planning Board who sets our Zoning Ordinance in accordance to the Shoreland Zone. We generally adopt the State requirements for those zoning activities but he does not know who is the final arbiter of this language before the Council sees it. This will be a good question for the Town Planner.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan received a text that this was a Staff/Attorney/Consultant group decision to move those things forward.

ITEM # 182-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Freeport Zoning Ordinance pertaining to Board of

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Appeals. This includes proposed amendments Section 104. Definitions and Section 601. Enforcement – pertaining to the functions, process and standards for the Board of Appeals.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for October 5, 2021 at the Town Council meeting starting at 6:30 pm to discuss proposed amendments to the Freeport Zoning Ordinance pertaining to Board of Appeals. This includes proposed amendments Section 104. Definitions and Section 601. Enforcement – pertaining to the functions, process and standards for the Board of Appeals.

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.

Note: The language is being updated to provide consistency with State law. Some additional non-substantive text changes are also proposed. (Whitney & Piltch)

Chair Egan explained that the language being proposed and updates will make it consistent with State law and we will have some amendments that will appear in the text but we really will just be updating it and aligning it with State regulations as required to our Board of Appeals for the Zoning Ordinance.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan explained the following item and noted that these changes will be talked about on October 5th. There is a detailed explanation in the memo from the Town Planner in the Council’s packets.

ITEM # 183-21

To consider action relative to setting a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Freeport Zoning Ordinance pertaining to solar energy regulations. This includes proposed amendments to Section 104. Definitions - to increase the allowable size of a Large Solar Farm in the Commercial I (C-I) District to up to fifteen (15) acres; Section 409. Commercial I (C-I) District – to add Large Solar Farm as a permitted use subject to Site Plan Review; Section 412. Commercial IV (C-IV) District - to correct that the existing uses of Small Solar Farm and Large Solar Farm are subject to Site Plan Review, rather than Subdivision Review as currently listed; and, Section 534. Solar Energy Generation Systems – to prohibit the use of herbicides on solar farms and to add additional performance standards for Large Solar Farms in the Commercial I (C-I) District.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for October 5, 2021 at the Town Council meeting starting at 6:30 pm to discuss proposed amendments to the Freeport Zoning Ordinance pertaining to solar energy regulations. This includes proposed amendments to Section 104. Definitions - to increase the allowable size of a Large Solar Farm in the Commercial I (C-I) District to up to fifteen (15) acres; Section 409. Commercial I (C-I) District – to add Large Solar Farm as a permitted use subject to Site Plan Review; Section 412. Commercial IV (C-IV) District - to correct that the existing uses of Small Solar Farm and

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Large Solar Farm are subject to Site Plan Review, rather than Subdivision Review as currently listed; and, Section 534. Solar Energy Generation Systems – to prohibit the use of herbicides on solar farms and to add additional performance standards for Large Solar Farms in the Commercial I (C-I) District.

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. (Bradley & Lawrence)

Chair Egan noted there is a substantial amount of information in the packets from the Town Planner about this and we will have some presentation at the public hearing for the General Public prior to voting on this.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 184-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing for October 5, 2021 to discuss amendments to Chapter 48, Section 306 Taxi Stand Parking Zone and Section 311 Accessible Parking to remove taxi parking spot on Main Street.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for October 5, 2021 at the Town Council meeting starting at 6:30 pm to discuss proposed amendments to Chapter 48, Section 306 Taxi Stand Parking Zone and Section 311 Accessible Parking, to remove taxi parking spot on Main Street.

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. (Lawrence & Pilch)

Vice chair Whitney noted this was brought to our attention through the Re-visioning project. Having the parklet put on Main Street was a good idea but it took away two parking spots. They noticed that across the street there was a parking stand that was no longer being used. Phil Wagner did a lot of great work for them and he contacted the taxi driver, the only one we do have, and found that he no longer needs that spot anymore so it seemed obvious we could open that spot up so we could have more parking on Main Street. This has been through Complete Streets already and they approved it. She feels that it took quite a bit of time to get to this point so she is excited to see these words in front of her. She feels that spot is going away in two more weeks if we don’t get a room full of people against this.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 185-21 To consider action relative to awarding a bid for a Building and Grounds Department Tractor.

BE IT ORDERED: That Wallingford Equipment of Auburn be awarded a bid for a Building and Grounds Department new 4WD Kubota Tractor in the amount of \$37,900.00.

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Note: The Town Council appropriated \$30,000 for this project in the FY2021 Capital Budget. The remaining amount due will come from existing reserve dollars, previously appropriated for these items. The current balance in the Building Maintenance Reserve account is \$816,541. (Piltch & Lawrence)

Public Works Superintendent, Earl Gibson explained that this tractor is for the grounds maintenance crew to add to their fleet. Brent Moon has been trying to maintain the sidewalks at Town Hall and Fire/Rescue with a little tractor with a mowing deck instead of a tractor they are supposed to use. It has a snowblower and plow that will be added to the fleet. He apologized for the price overage. He didn't expect the prices to come in as high as they did. It shocked him quite a bit.

Councilor Bradley mentioned there is a note that the current balance in the Building Maintenance Reserve account is \$816,541 and asked what that is for? Mr. Gibson advised that it is for future things they purchase such as plow trucks, pick-ups and anything to do with Public Works and the Ground Maintenance crew. Councilor Bradley asked if there are any plans to spend that money? Mr. Gibson noted that it is a five-year plan and that money covers the next five years of purchases.

Councilor Bradley mentioned he made a point during budget that we have a lot of money in reserve accounts that is really taxpayer money that sits there and waits for the Town to spend it when we have a 5-year plan that requires us to fund it, he can understand that but when we go beyond that and we are carrying in excess of five years money that we haven't even imagined yet, he at least asks the question, what about the taxpayer? That is their money we put in there and why can't we use it to give them some relief from the increase in taxes which they experienced this year for instance. He explained to Mr. Gibson that when he asks him this question, it is not because he is concerned about anything Mr. Gibson is doing or any plans to spend the money specifically. He asked how much of the \$816,541 isn't designated for something Mr. Gibson is not going to spend in the next five years? Mr. Gibson advised that he could not answer that question without sitting down with the Finance Director. Councilor Bradley asked him to look at this between now and the next Council meeting and give the Council an update. Mr. Gibson agreed. Councilor Piltch added that we should have a 5-year Capital Program that we approved during budget season. Councilor Bradley did not remember it but was stunned at the big number. Mr. Gibson advised that a plow truck is \$225,000 and there are at least three of them in the next five-year plan. Councilor Bradley mentioned he would be happy to hear that information.

Vice Chair Whitney mentioned that none of the projects being done downtown could not have happened without Mr. Gibson. He has been helping to move things around for the Skate Park and also putting in the parklet on Main Street. She thanked him for everything he has done.

Mr. Gibson wanted to give Tammy Morrissey and Howard Dyer credit for painting the streets. Vice Chair Whitney also appreciated their help.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 186-21 To consider action relative to granting a Utility Easement under Maquoit Road.

BE IT ORDERED: That the proposed utility easement under Maquoit Road be granted.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Town Manager be directed to execute the easement on behalf of the Town Council. (Lawrence & Piltch)

Chair Egan advised that there is information in the Council's packets and it is ordinary to be granting easements under Town roads.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 187-21 To consider action relative to designating a voting representative and alternate for the MMA Annual Business Meeting.

BE IT ORDERED: That Christine Wolfe be designated as a voting representative for the MMA Annual Business Meeting. (Piltch & Lawrence)

Chair Egan noted that Chris Wolfe is our Town Clerk and is a perfect candidate to be representing us at a business meeting at MMA. He thanked her for her service and for agreeing to do this.

Councilor Bradley asked if she is our representative at this meeting? Chair Egan noted that she is.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

ITEM # 188-21 To consider action relative to the following Junkyard/Automobile Graveyard permit renewals.

BE IT ORDERED: That the following Junkyard/Automobile Graveyard permit renewals be approved.

1. David Bolduc d/b/a D.A.B. Inc. 13 Allen Range Road. (Bradley & Piltch)

Chair Egan mentioned there is a memo from the Manager in our packets. It appears Mr. Bolduc has met all the requirements of the application.

VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

OTHER BUSINESS:

MOVED AND SECONDED: To switch the order of things to deal with No. 2 first. (Bradley & Piltch) **VOTE:** (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

2. Discussion with Coastal Waters Commission on Wharfing Out recommendations

Chair Egan advised that the Council had a conversation about this at our last meeting and there is some conversation whether our Ordinance is adequate to provide information and guidance for the Coastal Waters Commission which in our current set-up is charged with permitting and reviewing applications for

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what is known as wharfing out of piers, docks and wharves built into our navigable waterways in our community. This is an information session so it is less formal than the Council taking actions so he urged Mark or Jeff to give a presentation on context here, specifically the direction they would like the Council to go.

Mark Morrissey, Chair of the Coastal Waters Commission mentioned that at the last meeting they discussed identifying areas for these wharves they are concerned about in the headwaters in Freeport. They came up with the idea that instead of identifying specific areas, they came up with a methodology that makes sense that combines distance and elevation to demonstrate how they want to do this and how there are areas these won't fit in. It is identifying these areas and saying overall this is going to be our plan moving forward. This is how to identify if they fit or don't fit. In addition, they have asked Katrina VanDusen to come and speak with them on their behalf. Jeff Stenzel will follow.

Ms. VanDusen advised that she is the former Executive Director of the Freeport Conservation Trust and is now a stalwart volunteer. When a dock was proposed at the headwaters of a branch of the Harraseeket where it becomes Kelsey Brook, it was on a property that is next to the Freeport Conservation Trust's preserve and she became engaged in the wharfing out process. It was a botched application. Many times, she showed up to talk about that project. The inlands along other parts of Freeport's shoreline are very special natural features and she thinks we need to take action to better protect them so that is why she offered to work with this group to figure out another way to make our regulations protect these spaces. When she ventures into these areas either by foot or by boat, she enjoys the beauty of the marsh, the shoreline, birds, wildflowers, woods and the tidal mud are all critical for plants and critters. Most of us in Freeport realize that in the upper reaches of Casco Bay we have hardly any deep-water frontage and plenty of extensive mudflats. We plan around the tides to access the water for boating, swimming and clamming. That is life where we live. However, as large shoreland parcels are divided and sold for house lots, new owners want to enhance their access even if the docks designed for them are barely functional and would spend most of every day resting on the mud. She mentioned a sign she saw mentioning the landowner wanting to make their water access more accessible. She says pay attention to the tide and feels we have lost our practical aspect of where we live. She mentioned in the summer docks in our inlets mar the scenic beauty and impede passage for people paddling. How and where docks are stored is not pretty either. The floats and accompanying piers are stored and compromise the natural environment and natural beauty of our shared places. She thinks the Coastal Waters Ordinance can be an effective tool for conserving valuable coastal habitat. The Ordinance has some good provisions relating to when a dock can be considered and should be maintained but she thinks we need additional language limiting docks from being installed in these upstream inlets. She feels the Commission is on the right track in figuring out how to do this and Jeff will talk about how to quantify that.

She offered to help draft these changes to the regulations and also the Freeport Conservation Trust will continue to work on conserving the Harraseeket shore front because it is a more effective way to keep whole stretches unbuilt and undocked but it is daunting. She thanked the Council for taking this up.

Jeff Stenzel explained that he is a longtime member of the Coastal Waters Commission and recent Chair. As Katrina mentioned, we have been challenged by some wharfing out applications in places that really don't give even Freeport mudflat access to small boats. The Commission agreed that some of these smaller creeks and rivers are not appropriate places for wharfing out. The question is how to essentially write standards for the Ordinance that are defensible and are not picking on one person or another. He provided some information and apologized for not having enough material for everybody's packet but they need to achieve a balance between people's property rights if they do have an appropriate setting for a wharfing out and the values that Katrina was talking about in our natural beauty and resources. To cut to the chase, they are asking for a 180-day moratorium on wharves that don't meet the standards. He

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understands the construction standards and the elevations where the marsh ends and begins, how much water is needed to have enough hours of access. They have proposed two sentences that will prevent, at least during the moratorium, these wharfing out systems in very narrow rivers. He is no wizard at Google Earth and is sorry he only had one and got here too late to get colored copies but essentially, they think you need some shoulder room for these wharfing out systems to make sense so as Katrina said, we are a town of mudflats. They are proposing in order to determine whether a wharfing out project is appropriate or not is you start at a three-foot elevation. That is where the marsh bank kind of falls into the river and from that point you go out from underneath the wharfing out system 150 feet to the opposing bank. If there is not enough room to have a buffer between the 150-foot radius and the next bank, the stream is too small for constructing a wharf. Furthermore, the center of the float must achieve a minimum one-foot elevation or lower in the elevation scale. Zero elevation is considered half tide so if you can get to one foot above half tide, you will have a reasonable amount of time to launch your boat or whatever watercraft you have to be able to use. The water comes in quite rapidly between zero and one but at the top end of the scale, that slows way down. It is wonky and hard to understand. He had to get down on the drawing before he could get his arms wrapped around it. He explained the bottom drawing and mentioned it is hypothetical. They selected Little River and the lower one is on Wolfe Neck property. You can see from the radiuses and the elevation that should they want to, they could put a wharfing out system there if they wanted to run kayaks or something like that. If you go 200 or 250 feet upstream, the banks are too narrow to fit the proposed language he is talking about this evening.

Chair Egan clarified that this is a hypothetical illustration of the two max and minimum he is talking about and Mr. Stenzel agreed and noted that it barely sneaks in on the Little River but they wanted to give the Council an example. This does not prohibit all wharf applications on some of these rivers that have sufficient width bank to bank and elevation to elevation where you could reasonably use watercraft but they skinny down pretty rapidly and the trend they have been seeing in Freeport in terms of wharfing out applications, is people are going up and up these little creeks and they want a wharf for maybe a couple of hours. He pointed out that shoreland access stairways with a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer are afforded to everybody. That does not change so you can still access the waterfront through stairways as long as they are permitted by the CEO. Hopefully, this just puts a kibosh on more projects coming in while they are looking at this. There are some changes to the Ordinance language they would like to put in but nothing really substantial. It is just clarification.

Chair Egan asked if the 180-day hold period would just be for applications that are aligned with on the drawing? Mr. Stenzel advised that there are maybe 2, 3 or 4 that could possibly be built if someone wanted to but this language takes it away from a particular geographical location and says this is what we are looking for. You have to have enough room. You have to have enough water and you have to have enough time in the water to make it practical. Chair Egan asked how many of these applications they get in a year? Mr. Stenzel advised that it varies from year to year but they probably get 4 or 5 a year. As for timing, the pier builders are now in their sales phase and they work their estimates up and that is why they tend to be more in the late winter or early spring. Chair Egan advised that the Council is not going to take action tonight but if we were to take action on their proposal, which he is strongly considering, he wants to get a sense of what that black out period does. He is generally opposed to moratoriums. Mr. Stenzel advised that the black-out periods only affect those wharfing out proposals in small creeks. Councilor Piltch added from a practical point of view, nobody is going to have a new dock in Freeport on any small stream. Chair Egan advised that we could take applications but not act on them until we have this language figured out.

Councilor Bradley mentioned that it is his understanding that you start the 150 feet measurement from the bank that is three-feet high. Mr. Stenzel advised that you go the three-foot elevation that is underneath the structure and then go out towards the opposite shore 150 feet. Councilor Bradley added that the three feet

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does not relate to the point in the stream in which the banks are three feet high? Mr. Stenzel advised that that is the typical dropping off point of the banks into the waterway. Councilor Bradley asked three feet above what? Mr. Stenzel advised that it is three feet above the mud. Councilor Bradley added that when you get to a point in a stream where the opposing banks are three feet above the mud, you measure the distance across and if it is more than 150 feet to the bank, it is okay and the Commission will accept a wharfing out permit. The first one is it has to be 150 feet from three-foot bank to three-foot bank. Mr. Stenzel noted it is part one of the standards. Councilor Bradley advised that part two has to do with the elevation of the water inside that 150-foot distance. There is no float yet, he is measuring things in nature. Mr. Stenzel added that they have to propose the location of the float and the length of the wharf because they are retaining the language of part of Chapter 31 and it can't be more than 125 feet in total length. Councilor Bradley noted they are taking a float that goes from one of these banks that are within 150 feet area and extending the float out and what they are talking about is the water below that float? Mr. Stenzel indicated he was correct. It has to be at least the one-foot elevation. Councilor Bradley noted that it is the elevation above the mud? Mr. Stenzel explained that it is above the tide so zero elevation is mid tide. Councilor Bradley asked if we know what the elevation is at mid tide at each location in Freeport? Mr. Stenzel explained there is a handy feature on Google Earth that if you move the pointer around, it tells you what elevation you are at. Ms. VanDusen added that it turns out that all elevations go from mid tide.

Councilor Bradley says that if we have an 8-foot tide, the mid tide is 4 feet to use that as an example. Ms. VanDusen advised that mid tide is always zero. More discussion followed. Councilor Piltch asked if elevation is measured from mid tide? Boaters are used to looking at nautical charts which are measured from low tide. An 8-foot tide at zero elevation would be 4 feet on the nautical chart. Councilor Bradley added that we are saying that at half tide it is zero elevation and you want one more foot above that? Mr. Stenzel advised that if you are at one foot elevation, you lose maybe 20-25 minutes of tide compared to zero elevation and that is still a useable amount of tide to get out to your boat or kayak.

Councilor Bradley explained why he is having this trouble. At this really narrow area that is only 150 feet wide, a 3-foot bank and he is being told that the second part of this is a 4-foot elevation and he doesn't know of any place in his experience where inside that narrow area we are defining, the tide would be up 4 feet. That would put it one foot above the 3-foot bank. Councilor Lawrence advised that he is talking about this flat area and sea level is here. More discussion followed. Councilors were all speaking at once and it was obvious everyone was struggling with this.

Mr. Stenzel explained to Councilor Bradley that there can be a very shallow slope to the mudflat so to get out to one-foot elevations you may exceed the current length the Town permits a wharfing out system to be. It is 125 feet total and some places where you can't get out to one-foot elevation in under 125 feet because the slope is so shallow. They have had to reject some applications that would have passed the new Standard One but they can't get to one-foot elevation in 125 feet or less. Councilor Lawrence sketched out a drawing for Councilor Bradley. Councilor Piltch clarified the two standards. You have to have 150 feet from bank to bank that is measured three-feet above mid tide. The other criteria are that the center of the float must achieve a minimum of a one-foot elevation or lower, Mr. Stenzel added that it could extend into zero minus 1, minus 2, minus 3 below the mid tide level. They are just saying that it has to at least get out to one foot above zero. The technical people would say elevation but he and the Council would say deeper. Councilor Piltch clarified that he is talking about the bottom of the float and Mr. Stenzel agreed. If it were higher, you wouldn't have enough time of tide to make it a practical use. You need a reasonable amount of water and that is what they are looking for. Not everybody will have a piece of property where they have an appropriate place for wharfing out. Councilor Piltch advised that he understands what Mr. Stenzel is trying to say but the wording is confusing. Mr. Stenzel added that that is another thing they will be able to fine tune in this period and as Mr. Morrissey mentioned, they would be happy to take anyone out and show them because these words were difficult for him to extrapolate and

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made him have to see some systems in place to wrap his mind around it. Councilor Bradley added that what would help him is to have a diagram 3 feet to 3 feet and then show what you mean by the level of water from what to what because he is not getting it. Mr. Stenzel advised that he had to see it put on Google Earth to really understand this. They were trying to boil this down in anticipation that this has to be turned into Ordinance language.

Chair Egan asked Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Stenzel how hard it would be to organize a small venture out there for several Councilors or even all Councilors? Mr. Stenzel is confident the Harbormaster could handle four or five people on his very stable boat and would be happy to take us out and show places that will really help people understand what they are talking about. Chair Egan noted he would find that extremely useful in trying to understand and make a decision on this. He thinks he understands the drawing but he would really love to see what it looks like. He doesn't have a sense of what a 150-foot span on a small stream is so he would like to see what that looks like and get a sense of how much water is actually there. It would be great if the Council could do that sometime before it is frozen. It could be publicized as a Council workshop. Ms. VanDusen suggested going at low tide so the Council could see how it really is. Councilor Piltch added that it might not be possible to get to the places we are talking about at low tide. Chair Egan explained that he would be happy to do either one. He noted that they may be able to go by airboat! He would like to get it scheduled in the next couple of weeks. It would really help him as well as other Councilors. Mr. Stenzel offered to communicate after the meeting.

Councilor Piltch advised that the Shoreland stuff which is going to be on the Council's agenda for next time is written to measure things from the high-water line which he knows is sometimes awkward and tough to deal with but he doesn't know if we measure stuff from elevation and it is referenced elsewhere and has as much legal weight. That is just a question and he doesn't think we need to change it. He is just guessing that Nick Adams is the person who would know if we can pass legal muster by referencing things to elevation as opposed to high water. Mr. Stenzel added that they are mindful of that.

Chair Egan asked if they need specific actions from the Council other than getting their boots on? Mr. Stenzel wants good times to go out and suggested that the Council consult their tide charts.

Chair Egan thanked Mr. Morrissey, Ms. VanDusen and Mr. Stenzel for their presentation. He found it illuminating. Mr. Stenzel suggesting using a color copier to copy the Google Earth diagram.

Councilor Bradley asked what are we going to accomplish during the moratorium period and how will it be different from these standards or what other things will be looking at? What expertise do we need in order to be developing standards for the changes in the Coastal Waters permitting that the Commission has in mind? Mr. Morrissey advised that this standard we were discussing tonight, they would like that to be the standard moving forward. In our outing they can better explain it to the Council. He recognizes the difficulty with this and it will be much clearer when you are out on the mudflats and you will see that the elevation doesn't change much 150 feet out and that will bring this whole thing into perspective. Initially what they would like to achieve is that there are areas in their amendments that they would like to take a cut on and change and update. In their process right now, they don't have the ability to approve something with conditions and that is what they would like to change so they would have the ability to change something with conditions. He feels that would be a big step going forward. Some of these permits may be requesting seasonal only and it is not going to be a permanent structure or they might say they are only going to be using a kayak. That might change things but they need the ability to look at these things in a much broader scope than the narrow view they have now to approve or disapprove. They want to have a more user-friendly ordinance. Councilor Bradley asked that as soon as everybody understands what they are talking about, you have pretty clearly in mind what those restrictions should be to protect these narrow waterways which you discussed earlier are valuable, conservation, beautiful and part of our soul in the

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inter waterway so he asked why is it going to take six months to do it if we already know what we want? Why do we have to have a moratorium for six months? Why don't we just do it and not extend it unnecessarily?

Mr. Morrissey advised that ideally, they would love to have it done in two months but they know these things take time. He doesn't know the process and is learning the process as the Council is. They will try to move this thing along as quickly as they can and would like to think a couple of months but they just don't know. They understood that six months is the maximum they could do so they took that. Councilor Bradley suggested 180 days or less if less time is needed. Councilor Piltch added that the Council can always undo our own moratorium. We can just vote to say the moratorium is over and we have a new ordinance. Vice Chair Whitney sympathized with Mr. Morrissey. It took her a long time to get rid of the taxi stand on Main Street. Things just take time.

3. Discussion on helping organize and/or sponsor some public forums on climate action.

Chair Egan mentioned that the next item is a brief update conversation on some public activities coming up and some engagements we have going on related to climate change and information/education about climate change and climate action as it relates to what might be changing in our community physically. At the beginning of the meeting he announced coming up we hopefully will be having a viewing on our Cable Channel of a documentary on Sustainability and what residents can do that we talked about and looking forward to an engagement that just started with GPCOG that has Staff capacity and expertise from training they received helping municipalities begin the process of climate action planning which is a defined term that has a scope and some particular initial low-hanging fruit kind of items to begin with. That just began. We actually get those services as a member of GPCOG. We don't have to pay for the Phase One because we are a member community. Part of that includes some identified resources to actually seek some grant funding to pay for additional work where we get more specific potential with design of particular items that may come up and he doesn't know what those are but he could speculate. That is going to be happening so the Town officially is engaged with CPCOG our Town's affiliate here that we worked with before and are looking forward to working with them again.

There is also a number of resident groups that are urging us to get engaged in sponsoring and raising the profile of discussions and presentations of information. We are fortunate to have a number of residents that are deeply engaged in this topic and would be able to leverage and bring in presentation materials and speakers for conversations about this. There are a bit of unrelated channels going on right now and hopefully will converge here fairly quickly. Our Sustainability Committee is engaged in a whole bunch of other things and he will try to meet with them and see if they can help coordinate some of these efforts so we can have a coordinated response. It gets to a topic that we talked about previously which is the need for an individual or at least an office of some kind of communication and coordination. We have a lot of things going back and forth with residents and parallel government groups like GPCOG. It would help if there was an organized plan that we could all refer to and share with our constituents.

Chair Egan did not have anything specific in terms of an event or to announce or anything like that. This is just to let the Council know that these things are going on and hopefully, we will have more specifics coming up this fall.

Councilor Bradley as he said at the last meeting, he was approached by some of these citizens Chair Egan is referring to. Many of them are on the Sustainability Committee and they are already working on things. Chair Egan mentioned the GPCOG opportunity. It is occurring to him that there are a lot of things going on but there is no one in charge of the parade so people are milling around doing the good things they do

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in the realm that they do them in. For instance, he suggested that we, the Council support the presentation of a forum on action items not for the town, but for individual residents and citizens concerned about climate change and who really simply do not know what to do as human beings in order to address climate change because it is so complicated and so detailed. He doesn't know now, even though he has heard from Chair Egan and all of the other things going on, whether this Council is going to support that forum either by authorizing it under our name which is what they asked for at first, or helping them acquire speakers as they develop that and do that work. He told them he thought from the last meeting that that is what we would do. This Council would support them in developing a forum that would be put on by the Town of Freeport under the aegis of the Town Council, developed not by the Council, but by this group that has come together. Many are on the Sustainability Committee but some of whom are not. He asked if can represent that or how does he go about getting authority to represent that?

Chair Egan advised that it is coming forward. He was asked by a number of folks that talked to Councilor Bradley and he will be on a zoom call next Monday at 4 o'clock and would share the link if Councilor Bradley would like to join in. Councilor Bradley noted that is fine but his question is more process. Will this Council sponsor that forum? He doesn't know how to answer the question or even know what process to go through to get that question answered. It just keeps coming up as an information item here and not getting precise about at least that one element. Chair Egan noted what he is trying to determine is to actually find the name and description of what the forum is going to be so we can properly bring it forward for a decision. He is 100% in favor of urging this Council to do that but can't describe what it is because he hasn't seen the program yet.

Councilor Bradley noted that this is the problem in a way. They don't know what the program is either. What they want to know is if the Council will sponsor it if they develop it. It seems to him that he could support that knowing who these people are and what their concerns are which he shares and Chair Egan shares. If we have to know what the whole program is to know whether the Council will support it or not, we are months away from knowing whether we will do that or not. They are asking us now will we support a forum if they develop it. Maybe we can't but he would like the Council to.

Councilor Piltch thinks the idea is if they have a proposal to bring forward, the proposal maybe Speaker A-TBD, Speaker B-TBD, and this is a six-month program with three speakers. What is it that they are asking us to support? He needs it to be more than vague. We want to do some stuff; will you give us some money? This is what we plan to do and there are blanks to fill in. This is the timeline, this is the cost, can you help us?

Councilor Bradley noted he would like to be on that zoom call. The other thing he would like to add is that Tom Pierce reached out to him today on this draw down Cable Program, unless he hears otherwise from us, he plans to start it tomorrow on our Cable and it is basically a symposium developed by Project Draw Down and Draw Down is the point in which the temperature stops increasing and either stays steady or drops. What Project Draw Down has done is using assumptions about a lot of things, identified areas in which private action, government action, intergovernmental action, global action will detract from the increase in temperature. They quantify that in broad terms so that when you put it all together, it is not desperate, it is not hopeless. It can be accomplished if all of these things come together. He watched it and to him it was eye opening because he didn't know anything at all. People will identify in there things they know a lot about and support but there will be other things in there that they have not identified as well that could be done by individuals or others. It gives you a sense of what you might do as an individual, the Town might do as a governmental entity or things we might lobby for or promote or support nationally, state-wide, regionally and then globally. Again, it is a great starting point. Tom Pierce went out and got permission to run it on our Cable and Chair Egan said he might do a brief introduction to it. He is drafting one which Councilor Bradley will e-mail to Chair Egan. Chair Egan advised that he

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doesn't know Tom and he does not know how he could videotape an introduction before he runs it tomorrow. Councilor Bradley offered to connect the two of them. Councilor Bradley feels we are all getting up to speed. Some people may still have a question on whether it is occurring but this isn't about that. This is a serious issue and has ramifications. How do we as Town leaders bring our people into the conversation?

Councilor Lawrence feels that is fine but he would also like to see some sort of a counter point. All he is hearing now is that this is what it is and he would like to hear a counter point if we are going to be fair about this. If we have a scientist saying this is what is going on, let's have another scientist saying okay here is where we are. We have CO₂ going up into the air. We have the temperature going up. We don't know what the process is. We have a theory about what is causing the issue. He believes in clean air and we should keep mercury and sulfur out of the air and he knows we are affecting our environment but everything is made of carbon. The ocean puts more into the air than any car that is out there. He would just like to see a counter point.

Councilor Bradley understands that people are not convinced that climate change is a result of man's intervention in the environment. Maybe what Councilor Lawrence is suggesting is that we have a number of those kinds of people in Freeport and their point of view needs to be represented in any kind of conversation that we incur. He feels it is a fair comment and to him, what he is hearing is climate denial but that is only because he believes what he believes. He is perfectly comfortable having the kinds of beliefs that are on this side of the table shared with those on your side and we promote that conversation with experts on both sides as part of this forum. Councilor Lawrence agreed but he does not deny the climate is changing and we are talking about the global aspect of it. Councilor Piltch added that this is the type of conversation we might want to have at that forum. We are not having the debate tonight.

In fairness to Councilor Lawrence, Councilor Bradley was not thinking we would put on a forum which presented the two different sides on whether climate change is occurring and is it the result of human intervention. He believes it is so clear, we are beyond that point but if Councilor Lawrence is saying he is not and there are lots of people in Freeport who don't. That is where we start. Chair Egan added that is why the Council is having the conversation to determine what it looks like. Councilor Bradley noted that the group of people that approached him is not anywhere near where Councilor Lawrence is in this conversation. They are well passed that. They are just saying it is happening and it is threatening the planet and what can we do to address it? That is what they want to talk about.

Councilor Piltch noted if they bring something forward and say this is our proposal, this is what we are asking for in terms of resources and this is what is on our agenda. We can then decide if this is something we want to get behind or not. If we are not comfortable with that agenda, we want a different agenda if they want our support. Councilor Bradley is saying as leaders, people look up to us for guidance on complicated issues like this. This is an issue he thinks we can be really helpful by bringing some of these issues into focus for a lot of different people and he tends to dismiss the issues Councilor Lawrence is bringing up but that is not fair to him. He is pretty sure about Ice Age and stuff like that but he is willing to listen to the other side and let's have that and tell these other people that are coming to us for our support as Councilors we think they have to start a little before they want us to start.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 8:39 p.m. (Piltch & Lawrence)
VOTE: (5 Ayes) (1 Excused-Daniele) (0 Nays)

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary