



MINUTES

DATE: January 9, 2024
TIME/PLACE: 7:30 am - 9:00 am / Town Hall, Council Chambers
PRESENT: Chair Liz McDonald, Adam Bliss, Sally Walsh, Kim True, Phil Wagner, Andy Seymour, Councilor Chip Lawrence, Councilor Eric Smith, Barbara Guffin
ABSENT: Police Chief Nate Goodman

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
I. Welcome, Agenda, Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda Reviewed• Motion to approve minutes of December 12, 2023 meeting by Sally Walsh, seconded by Kim True. All approved, 7 in favor, none opposed.• There is still an open position on the Complete Streets committee; Barbara will contact Jim Ahearne and Eric, who have expressed interest in joining. Thank you, Kim, for completing the Momentum grant application by the December 31 due date. Your work is greatly appreciated.	Motion passed, 7-0
II. Village Sidewalk materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next section of scheduled sidewalk rehabilitation is Park Street near Memorial Park. The total budget for all sidewalk improvements is \$45,000. The cost for brick rehabilitation is approximately \$10/square foot, and the price for asphalt is roughly \$4/square foot. The asphalt price does not include existing brick removal and disposal, which would add to the overall cost. The Town Engineer prepared a table and draft map identifying the walkways completed since FY 2016 and the next ones scheduled for repair. These are symbolized by material type, e.g., brick and asphalt. The CSC discussed the pros and cons of materials and whether we should focus on installing railings and other safety features in problem areas, e.g., upper School Street. Three key areas were identified as in need of improvements: School Street from Main to Middle Street (near Isabella's) is steep, bumpy, and slippery; the corner of Main Street and Bow Street (near Linda Bean's) is uneven and has a drainage issue; and, the east side of Main Street between Bow and School Street where the tree grates create uneven brick issues. A recommendation is needed by the end of February. Thank you, Sally, for sending an article about concrete and brick pavers used in downtown Minneapolis.	



<p>III. Connect Freeport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gratitude to Kim for the Momentum grant application and resolution to the Town Council. • Andy Spaulding will talk to Natalie about using her format to document and plan future bike/ped trails. The annual workshop with the Town Council is coming soon (February or March). • Andy and Carrie met with Matthew Peters, Executive Director of Freeport Housing Trust, to discuss their plans to build senior housing units near Varney Road. Some changes to the trail plans are needed, but Matt was very supportive of our work and willing to discuss the next steps. • Connect Freeport hopes to have regular contact with the folks doing trail planning work in Yarmouth and Brunswick. Nothing is scheduled yet. • The next Connect Freeport meeting will be Thursday, February 1, at 10:00 am. 	
<p>IV. Route One South MUP Planning and Grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last few months, we have been working with Toole Design Group to help plan (i.e., conduct a feasibility study) for an off-road bike/ped trail from Casco Bay YMCA to Pine Street. Adam presented seven potential trail alignments identified by Toole Design Group. Our task is to rate them regarding drainage, topography, and ROW. Once rated, Toole Design will use a program to determine elevation gain and suggest a feasible route. We discussed some key properties in that area. Please hold off on any discussions with landowners until all the detailed backup work is completed. • Much work is going on now with GPCOG, MDOT, and others in planning the downtown Freeport area. The Freeport Town Manager is working with FEDC, the Town Planner, and the Town Engineer to gather work done to date (Active Living Plan, Downtown Vision Plan, Mallett Drive Design Charette, and more). They will identify other work needed and then work with MDOT to apply for a RAISE grant. Adam feels a higher probability for the RAISE grant application may be a VPI planning grant to in-fill and support existing studies, which will garner further support for the federal application. Adam is currently working on a story map to give to MDOT. • The agenda packet includes a list of potential grants. 	



<p>V. Safe Routes to School Grant</p>	<p>Safe Routes to School is an example of leveraging our connection with Maine DOT and PACTS. In the fall of 2023, Freeport contacted GPCOG to request a multi-use path feasibility analysis between the areas north and south of Mallett Drive. The purpose of the study was to provide Freeport with alternatives to safely connect the areas north and south of Mallett Drive (between the Middle School and High School). The analysis included multiple site visits in 2022 to gather data and observe vehicle and pedestrian traffic along Mallett Drive. Adam presented a map of the suggested routes (see the map in the agenda packet for a better description of options). The CSC discussed various suggestions: do we want to encourage students to walk through the woods from Maple Avenue to Mallett Drive or along Maple Avenue down to Main Street? Do we need to consider the safety of off-road biking vs. on-road biking/walking? Do we need sidewalks on both sides of Mallett Drive before installing a mid-block crossing? Right-of-way access between Maple Avenue and Mallett Drive near the dentist's office was discussed – is there enough demand for this connection based on the Streetlight and Miovision data counts? Mallett Drive has always felt like it needed short-, medium-, and long-term options. The goal is to develop a short-term solution before further exploring a path and mid-block crossing and then continue to monitor data and needs before determining the best action.</p>	
<p>VI. CSC Workplan</p>	<p>The focus was on the CSC policy, where comments were about e-bikes: when no specific policy is mentioned, do we assume state policy? Section 9B: Active Living Committee is no longer in existence (revise this reference). Next month's meeting will begin where we left off today.</p>	
<p>VII. Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024. Motion to adjourn by Barbara, seconded by Phil. All approved, 7 in favor, none opposed. 	<p>Motion passed, 7-0</p>