

EXECUTIVE SESSION
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #03-22
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
30 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022
5:45 PM

Chair Piltch called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. John Egan and Henry Lawrence joined meeting at 6:15 p.m., all other Councilors were present.

ITEM # 31-22 To consider action relative to an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) pertaining to an employment matter.

MOTION: That the Town Council enter Executive Session.

MOTION: That the Town Council exit Executive Session.

(45 minutes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Town Council enter Executive Session. (Bradley & Piltch) **VOTE:** (5 Ayes)(0 Nays)

MOTION AND SECONDED: That the Town Council exit Executive Session (Bradley & Egan) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

AGENDA
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #03-22
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 30 MAIN STREET, FREEPORT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022
6:30 PM

ZOOM: Please use the link below to join the meeting virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81162151962>

To participate by telephone dial

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782

And enter webinar ID: 811 6215 1962

FROM: Peter E. Joseph, Town Manager

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: **PRESENT** **EXCUSED** **ABSENT**

TO:

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

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Councilor Piltch called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He took the roll call. All Councilors were present and Town Manager, Peter Joseph.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #02-22 held on January 18, 2022 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting # 02-22 held on January 18, 2022 and to accept the minutes as printed (Bradley & Daniele)**VOTE:** (7 Ayes(0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements (15 minutes)

Chair Piltch read the following announcements:

- Join the Town of Freeport from Feb 3rd to the 7th for a public design workshop for the Freeport Downtown Vision Plan. The project team will host an open studio in downtown and facilitate roundtable discussions, a block party, and workshops to co-design the future of downtown Freeport together with the community. For more information and to register visit: www.freeportdowntown.me
- The AARP Foundation has a Tax-Aide program. If you visit their website near the end of January, you should find the “Site Locator” tool where you enter a zip code and find locations nearest you for in-person tax preparation www.aarp.org
- Short term residential rental registrations expire March 1st of each year. Renewals that have made no changes to the property during the licensing year will only need to resubmit the 2 page application, an updated insurance policy or proof of coverage and the \$100 fee per rental.
- Subject: Exit 20 and 22 Bridge Replacement Projects: A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for February 3rd between the Maine DOT, Town Staff, and Contractors. This meeting will provide project details concerning the construction start dates, traffic management, and sequencing. Please stay tuned for further information regarding these projects. Information will be shared as it becomes available at Council meetings, on social media platforms, and the Town’s website.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange (15 minutes)

Councilor Bradley reported on progress with the Island Rover. A substantial launch plan has been submitted by the applicant and reviewed by town volunteers, some of which are BIW employees. The Town Engineer does not have a problem with the roads or with the tacking of the railway onto the ledge that they propose. Councilor Bradley does want to consult with another level of expertise. He is encouraged that there will be something to present to the Town Council at the next meeting or two.

Councilor Bradley also informed that the Wolf Neck Center for Agriculture and Environment has received a \$2.5 million grant to finish the Smith Center, which was the last piece of the development program they began five years ago. It took private funding and it is an enormous asset for the community. He encouraged people to reach out to their Board, Dave Herring or Ginny Mattson who have been working on this.

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Lastly, there's going to be a presentation from the Sewer District to the FEDC on the 23rd to talk about Sewer District improvements and connection fees. There is a real opportunity for people who have for a long time not been exactly on the same page to turn a page and come together.

Councilor Pillsbury reported that the Freeport Climate Action Now digital launch event on the 20th went very well. It's up on YouTube and he would encourage you to check that out. He also felt the RSU January newsletter was a particularly good read. Superintendent Foley had a well written piece on the racist incident that happened in our town in November and the work that's being done at the school level on education around diversity, equity and inclusion. He would encourage everyone to go to their website and check it out. There was also a letter by Bonnie Violet talking about the journey that the new Mainers that are in our town now have endured. He also thanked Chair Piltch and Vice Chair Egan for the statement they put out regarding the incident. Chair Piltch explained that because there wasn't another council meeting for two weeks and they wanted to get something out quickly which is why it didn't come from the whole Council. Hopefully, tonight it will be discussed and the Council can come to some consensus if they want to do that also as a Council as well.

Vice Chair Egan, liaison for the Social and Racial Equity Committee, read a Proclamation that the committee actually wrote last fall before this event occurred. The proclamation is in support of inclusion, social justice and non discrimination in the town of Freeport. Councilor Egan read the following Proclamation and asked that it be endorsed:

-Whereas it is imperative to the Town of Freeport, Maine's goals that we are a welcoming and inclusive community to all who seek to live, work, play, and thrive peaceably within our boundaries; and

-Whereas the residents of Freeport welcome and embrace people from all races, creeds, and orientations, and believes we are stronger as a society when we enthusiastically do so; and

-Whereas the Town of Freeport is committed to building trust amongst all its residents, including continued work and collaboration to insure inclusion and welcome diversity; and

-Whereas the Municipal Departments of the Town of Freeport will uphold and advance the goals of social justice and that all members of the community have the right to live peacefully, raise their families, and seek economic and academic opportunities free of discrimination.

-Now Therefore

-The Freeport Town Council, on behalf of the Town of Freeport, Maine, do hereby resolve:

All Freeport residents, visitors, and guests, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, or gender identity are entitled to be treated with compassion, dedication, and equality in the pursuit of a peaceful life; and

-In the strongest terms possible, hatred and bigotry, overt and subtle, will not be tolerated by the Town of Freeport or it's officials or employees in any form; and

-The Town of Freeport commits to ensure its employees are trained in both implicit and explicit bias against any population and to ensure that the ideals of fairness and equality are upheld.

Councilor Lawrence wanted to know what it meant to "advance the goals of social justice"? Councilor Egan said the goal is to treat everyone fairly. **VOTE:** to endorse Proclamation as is : (5Ayes)(2 Nays-Fournier & Bradley).

MOVED AND SECONDED: to amend the language in the goals of the Proclamation to read:

*-Whereas the Municipal Departments of the Town of Freeport will uphold **the goal of treating everyone fairly** and that all members of the community have the right to live*

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peacefully, raise their families, and seek economic and academic opportunities free of discrimination.(Lawrence & Fournier)**VOTE** (6 Ayes)(1 Nay-Bradley)

To adopt the Proclamation as amended **VOTE**(7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

Mary Davis of FEDC gave an update on Downtown Vision week. This process started with surveys and we are now down to specifics. This week is the next level of detail. Principle will ask us what we want. We can clarify what we do and don't want. Workshops are virtual with 80-100 people per session signed up now. They went all virtual for the workshops to make sure everyone is able to be involved. There was a newsletter sent out to over 600+ people. She encouraged people to print it out as it has the agenda and other important information about Design Week. We are recording the sessions and she encouraged everyone to attend.

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

Mr. Joseph apologized that we are experiencing Zoom problems this evening .

He announced the promotion of Gail Moody in the Finance Department from Counter Clerk to Accounting Assistant, filling Todd Reynold's vacancy. Please wish her luck.

He reported on the Emergency Face Covering Ordinance and stated that we have had 3 complaint reports. One regarded over-zealous enforcement and two were complaints regarding people not wearing masks so it has been not very contentious so far. The two non mask wearing complaints were resolved through education and the over-zealous enforcement was a private business decision so there was no part for the town to play.

Our attorneys are working on 3 real estate matters not on the agenda tonight. Our real estate attorney is working with Main Water Company's attorney regarding some of the questions about the water tanks that were brought up at the last meeting. The second is the L'Ecole Francaise du Maine for Soule School property. They had conversations earlier this week. Lastly, we are working with Verizon representative on contracts for the water tanks pending. The attorneys are working directly with them later this week to give feedback.

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

1. Dominic Petrillo-owner of Petrillo's Restaurant spoke in favor of removing the mask mandate. He believes the mask mandate is ineffective. Surgical masks are best but are only good for 25 minutes before there is viral overload. At his restaurant the employees are the only ones wearing a mask so how is that effective? These are private business, not public. Council has the duty to act to support local businesses. He asked for a revote to remove the mandate under a motion to reconsider.

Councilor Daniele asked if he noticed a change in his business in the last 2 weeks. Mr. Petrillo said there has been no dip in business, but he has been asked to host a group and not enforce mask mandate and he declined. He did lose an employee over the mandate. Councilor Lawrence asked if he declined the request due to mandate and he said "yes".

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2. Josh Olins-139 South Freeport Road.- Mr. Olins was the former chair of the Sustainability Committee but is now a board member only. He is proud of FSAB's accomplishments but would be remiss if he didn't point out missed opportunities due to lack of human power. As the urgency of climate change is becoming more evident, it is clear that we have to do more and we really need the support and guidance of greater minds and greater backing and believes it is time to hire a Sustainability Coordinator. He listed the numerous projects from planning to carbon footprint transportation, EVS charging infrastructure, energy project production, waste management, and so many more that need our attention and it's too much for volunteers. The position would pay for itself through grant opportunities and hopes we will add it to the future town budget.
3. Bob Stevens-member of Climate Action Now-Mr. Stevens and his group also supports the Coordinator position. Mr. Stevens talked about the Climate Action Now events and thanked us for advertising it in the bulletin as it increased attendance. The group is starting to deal with local food, conscious consumerism, equity and social justice or fairness, housing, energy efficiency, local transportation and carbon impact solver and energy coordination with municipal and State action plans. Lastly, he spoke in favor of keeping the mask mandate.
4. Al Brown- owner of Buck's Naked BBQ- Mr. Brown sent an email to the town without response. His point is that masks are worthless as reported by the CDC. K95 masks have better protection and many in the states are fakes. He talked about discrepancies in Covid reporting and changes in how we see it. He agrees with Mr. Petrillo and is asking the Council to reconsider and revoke the mask mandate. If the Maine CDC doesn't mandate it then why does the town? The feeling that a mask is a medical device that will save us is wrong. Are we doing it because other municipalities did it? He now has 27 employees when he had 50 and 20 have had Omnicron, including himself. Mask mandates won't stop additional Covid cases.

Councilor Egan asked if it would have made a difference if the Maine CDC had issued the request? Mr. Brown replied affirmatively that it would hold more gravitas if it came from a medical community like the Maine CDC. We have to choose truth and lies. Councilor Lawrence agreed that it requires KN95 masks, goggles and gloves to be protected.

5. Jim Hughes-Spar Cove Road-spoke at the last meeting spoke against the emergency ordinance. He covered what he felt were mistakes in how Covid has been handled. It's the first time we locked down healthy people and not the sick ones. For first time doctors were told not to prescribe drugs and pharmacies not to dispense. Everything pushed to vaccinations. The vaccine was given a EUA, which is contingent on no treatment for the disease, therefore, treatments were suppressed. He would advise you to follow the money to such places as pharmaceutical companies. Masks are a way of scaring people to get vaccinated. Covid is treatable. Where is money going? He spoke to who he thought was making money on pandemic. He also asked the Council to rescind mandate, if not, then when it expires let it die.
6. Shane Reeves-11 Rainbow Lane, Freeport- (not wearing a mask) He runs an auto shop in Yarmouth which doesn't have a mask mandate. Waits on customers all day that come in without masks. He has chosen to not shop in Freeport due to mandate. Masks should be personal choice and others have pointed out their ineffectiveness. As you travel you go through towns with and without mandates. He is 35 years old and had Covid and recovered with the approved medicines. He strongly encouraged the Council to revoke and repeal the mask mandate.

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7. Andy Arsenault-US Route 1- He spoke against mandate last time. How do we measure if it's successful? How have we achieved our goal He agrees with Shane Reeves issues. There are issues with the treatment. Has not had Covid and believes state is playing God. He spoke to the treatment options and against masks.

Councilor Piltch reminded the public that the mask mandate was passed as an emergency ordinance 2 weeks ago. They set it to expire in 30 days, so if they don't do anything at the next meeting it will expire. The council could vote to reenact it for any amount of time. Dan-mask mandate approved but if nothing happens it will expire in 30 days.

8. Zoom: Joyce Clarkson-Veilleux- Wanted to thank the Town Council for the option to Zoom the meeting. She hopes that the Council will take suggestions from the public on how to expend the ARPA funds. The pandemic taught us that we need more outdoor event places. She would like to propose a gazebo in park for small plays and musicals. This would help promote tourism. There could be education programs, movie screenings and lectures. It is in line with The Principle Group's survey that we want more friendly outdoor spaces. She would also like to see a couple of places for food trucks and having a dinner and a movie in the park would be a good thing. Also she would like to see a good playground. We already considering a skate park for older kids, but we need something for younger and handicapped kids that includes special equipment. Councilor Piltch explained that the ARPA funds have strings attached, but we are putting ideas in a bucket.

Councilor Piltch noted that our Charter, section 214 specifies how to repeal an emergency ordinance. It would take a vote of 5 in favor to repeal. It would also take a vote of 5 (majority plus one) to reconsider.

Councilor Lawrence wanted to make the motion to repeal emergency ordinance. When we made the ordinance, it was a gesture, we made it as law we weren't going to enforce, it wasn't vetted through. If the goal is to keep people safe, it doesn't.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the ordinance from last meeting regarding temporary face coverings be repealed. (Lawrence & Egan)

Councilor Daniele thinks Mr. Arsenault made a good point about what is our end game. What matrix are we looking for?

Councilor Piltch feels we are all in this together. Science changes, we learn things. Nothing is 100 percent effective. Masks are a tool and the guidance is to get vaccinated if you can. Masking is one thing you can do. He is looking at are we in an area of higher transmission and currently we are. How is it affecting the health care system? Are masks going to solve the problem –no. KN95 surgical masks are better than other masks. He is uncomfortable doing nothing. This is good middle ground and he is willing to give another 2 weeks. There are three matrix that Councilor Piltch is looking at. 1. Are we, Cumberland County, in an area of higher transmission? 2. What do ICU bed numbers look like and he can't remember the third but it's from the CDC website and is hospital related.

Councilor Lawrence wants to know how Freeport having a mask mandate is going to stop that. We are already on the down slope. We are at the end of pandemic. We closed country for two

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weeks and it still got around. We've been wearing masks for 2 years. It's just a gesture. He thinks it's everyone's personal choice to wear a mask. When we take away choice we take away a freedom. These are private businesses. When we talk about higher numbers in Cumberland county, what towns is it? If we are doing a mask mandate and Yarmouth isn't, then what's the point. It's not effective and we don't have a way to track it. Why does Cumberland county have higher rates? He understands people are afraid of Covid.

Councilor Fournier stated we are now seeing a decline in numbers since the last meeting. His grandkids got it. Let them back into school after 5 days. He talked about encouraging people instead of mandating. We are hearing people losing employees and business. Hopes we can reconsider.

Councilor Bradley stated he is not going to support motion. For him, Dan explained why he is not going to support a repeal. It is one thing we can do to slow Covid down and make the situation better. He doesn't view it as a gesture. We need to stay the course, it's only 2 weeks more. People are stopping him in the street to thank him for voting for this.

Councilor Pillsbury will be voting no also. He agrees with Councilor Piltch and Bradley. He does appreciate everyone coming and speaking tonight and doing it in a civil manner.

Councilor Daniele also heard from people who wanted it to go further. He echoes Dan's comments.

Councilor Piltch explained there is a motion on the floor to repeal the emergency ordinance and he explained that a yes vote would be to repeal and a no vote would leave the ordinance in place till February 16, 2022.

Peter Joseph clarified that at the next meeting the Council would need a 5-2 vote to reinstitute the ordinance after it expires in 2 weeks.

VOTE: (3 Ayes: Fournier, Lawrence, Egan)(4 Nays: Piltch, Pillsbury, Bradley, Daniele)

Councilor Bradley asked about the procedure to maintain the mandate. Peter Joseph stated that we want to make it permanent we would need to notice a Public Hearing and hold the hearing within 14 days.

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

ITEM # 32-22 To consider action relative to adopting the February 1, 2022 Consent Agenda.

Chair Piltch reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for members of the public.

BE IT ORDERED: That the February 1, 2022 Consent Agenda be adopted.
(Pillsbury & Fournier)

Councilor Pillsbury asked why we need to approve individual donations. The Town Manager explained we have to accept anything outside of the regular budget process. You could hold till end of year and do it all at once in a different fashion. It can't be spent until it's received. Councilor Fournier asked why we

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couldn't use the annual letter as a mechanism and just appropriate the money when it's spent. Mr. Joseph explained that it's also is a public recognition of the donation. It makes it part of the public process.

Councilor Daniele asked what the Dr. Carrine Burns Fidelity Charitable Fund and the BenPaul Charitable Funds are. The Town Manager and Town Clerk were not able to provide additional information but will come back after doing some research.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To remove items #41-22 and #42-22 from the Consent Agenda and table them until the next meeting (Daniele & Lawrence)**VOTE:** (7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

VOTE: on Consent Agenda as AMENDED: (7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

ITEM # 33-22 To consider action relative to adopting the FY23 Budget Schedule. The Town Manager explained that there are two parts to the budget process. There's the Capital budget, which is the five year program of capital budgets will happen for the next two months starting March 1 through April. Then starting May 1, and continuing through June we work on the operating budget. There are two month periods for the next 4 months. We have a target date for adoption on June 21st but in all actuality they have until June 30th to adopt a budget. That is cutting it close, but the Council can call an emergency meeting with proper notice. The budget timeline is laid out in the Charter, and runs later than other municipalities. Our charter states that as of the last day of the fiscal year, you have to have next fiscal year's budget adopted. It is good because it gives us the most accurate year to date data to look at as we're going through it. When we transmit the budget, we have 10 months of this fiscal year to go back and analyze as opposed to some municipalities that start January 1st that only have 6 months of the data to really look at for performance.

Councilor Pillsbury wanted to know if that gives enough time to implement the budget within those nine days. Specifically, what if you wanted to enact hiring one July first, that's the first day, you're never going to be able to do that. Mr. Joseph explained that we have enough fund balance to carry over. The only real problem would be a substantial reduction to the budget. For instance, if they voted to eliminate a department, he might have trouble getting that done in 2 days. We would hire contingent on the funding happening. It could affect hiring if someone was not willing to wait a month to see if they got funding.

Councilor Egan has been doing this for 5 years and finds the timing to be more than adequate. Most of the back and forth is on the capital budget rather than the operating budget. This year we will be talking about adding a few positions which will be added to the operating budget. There are probably 5 meetings on the capital budget before that is in place. And all that time, the Council is getting information on there the operating budget is. It may seem like they are voting on it at the last minute, but the Council has lots of advance notice to have conversations about it. By the time the budget is voted on there has been lots of dialogue and input.

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BE IT ORDERED: That the FY23 Budget Schedule be adopted.

VOTE: (Fournier & Lawrence)- (7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

(Town Manager, Peter Joseph)(15 minutes)

FY 2023 Budget Schedule -	
DRAFT	
Thursday, February 24, 2022	Manager Transmits 5-Year Capital Program to Council
Tuesday, March 1, 2022	Manager and Finance Director Present 5-Year Capital Program During Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022	Council Sets Public Hearing for April 5
TBD	Joint Meeting with RSU 5, Town of Durham, Town of Pownal (Community Center)
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	Council Workshop on 5-Year Capital Program
Tuesday, April 5, 2022	Public Hearing on Capital Program
Tuesday, April 19, 2022	Adoption of the 5-Year Capital Program
Thursday, April 28, 2022	Manager Transmits Operating, Capital and TIF Budget to Council
Tuesday, May 3, 2022	Manager and Finance Director Present Operating, Capital and TIF Budget
Tuesday, May 3, 2022	Council Sets Public Hearing for June 7
Wednesday, May 11, 2022	7:30-8:30 AM Department Head Public Informal Q&A Session
Wednesday, May 11, 2022	5:00-6:00 PM Department Head Public Informal Q&A Session
Tuesday, May 17, 2022	Council Workshop on Operating, Capital, and TIF Budgets
Tuesday, June 7, 2022	Public Hearing on Operating, Capital, and TIF Budgets
Tuesday, June 21, 2022	Target Date for Budget Adoption-Capital, TIF, and Operating Budgets/Appropriation Made

ITEM # 34-22 To consider action relative to amending the 2022 Town Council schedule to designate four additional workshop dates on March 22, March 29, April 12 and May 24.

March 22 is being added as a correction. There are normally three workshops to meet with Boards and Committees and this was left off the last schedule. March 29 and April 12 was talked about by the Council. This is the chance for the Town Council to have a say with the Principle Group. We can add if these two aren't enough. May 24th is a workshop primarily with FEDC. They will probably have a new executive director by then. This is a synchronization to say what are the goals and objectives of FEDC and are they aligned with the Council goals. This year the downtown vision may come up with a series of actions and plans that we need help adopting. We may ask for FEDC's help. This will be a good chance for the Council to really talk about the implementation of the plan.

BE IT ORDERED: That the Town Council Schedule be amended to designate four additional workshop dates on March 22, March 29, April 12 and May 24.

VOTE: (Lawrence & Daniele)(7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

(Council Chair Piltch)(15 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Discussion regarding Freeport following the State's lead in divesting fossil fuel holdings, as specified in LD 99 which says "The Treasurer of State may not invest in any prime commercial paper or corporate bonds issued by a fossil fuel company". (Council Chair Piltch)(15 minutes)

Councilor Piltch stated this is a discussion regarding Freeport following the State's lead in divesting fossil fuel holdings as specified in LD99 which says the Treasurer of the State may not invest in any prime commercial paper or corporate bonds issued by a fossil fuel company. It was signed and passed by the legislature and the governor. Maine was the first state to do that on a legislative basis so that it's required by law and not set as policy. Councilor Piltch believes it was in 2012 that Unity College here in Maine was the first college university to adopt that as a policy. Since then there have been 1485 institutions that have divested over \$39 trillion from fossil fuel holdings. He wants to look at this and see if the town wanted to do that also. He knows it would not be a large amount of money, but combined with other institutions it makes a big statement as a whole. He also feels it puts weight behind our intentions in implementing a Climate Action Plan. He wants to know if there is an appetite to look into this and come back with a proposed policy?

Councilor Pillsbury supports this and thinks it seems counter-productive to be using town funds to invest in fossil fuels.

Councilor Bradley wanted to know how much money this is and who invests this for us. Councilor Piltch stated we have a paid investment manager who invest our reserve balances. There are state rules about what we're allowed to invest in and they're basically very conservative investments. We don't make those decisions, we just set the policies that tell the managers where to invest our money. The current fund manager is Bangor Savings Bank Wealth Management division selected several years ago by a RFP. We will do another RFP in another year or two. They make some thousandths off each investment. John Egan stated that the balance would be eight to 10 million if you add up all the accounts. The town manager thought it was closer to six or seven. Part of the research that needs to be done is to find out how much of those investments are in fossil fuels but they are definitely in there. A lot of ours are tied to index funds. We don't target fossil fuels but we also don't avoid them and the research will help.

Councilor Egan explained there are two sides to the discussion. We make decisions about investment of our reserve accounts, which is a fiduciary decision. On one side of the coin is why would we choose an investment strategy that's not going to maximize our opportunity to get return? The other side is are we aligning our investment strategies with a value that we say we have in terms of recognition of climate change, and whether or not we should be investing and participating in companies that are contributing to negative climate impacts. It's worth discussing and he thinks it will be an easy decision, because our conservative investment strategy is such that it's not going to harm us from a fiduciary perspective in terms of a return to make that decision.

Councilor Fournier does not support this. He thinks we take more beneficial actions on other positions than this and he's not sure he would have interest in this. He thinks we can go to GPCOG and do environmental issues, we have the sustainability position. Those are the meat and bones issues.

Councilor Pillsbury stated that there is a real cost down the road to the town on climate change inaction. We are going to see real dollar costs to flooding and additional snow storms, etc.

Councilor Lawrence asked if the fossil fuel companies are not transitioning or doing research in electric companies.

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Councilor Piltch said that one of the things he is trying to figure out is how to define a fossil fuel company. If you are investing in oil and gas exploration but also in wind and solar, are you a fossil fuel company? There are definitions used by the State or those 1500 other institutions that we can borrow. A lot of it is focusing on the top, the people who own the carbon resources in the ground and saying that if we divest from those companies, then there's less financial incentive to extract those resources from the ground. There are a lot of moving parts and the impact is there and it makes a difference. We are not proposing to spend any money on this. It is not a foregone conclusion that we will take a lower return when we do this. Some of the funds that are global sustainable funds have exceeded the index funds, some have not. We don't know if the fossil fuel sector is going to do well next year.

Councilor Lawrence commented that he thought this problem was going to be taken care of in 30 years ago at least that was when he was a kid 40 years ago. We were running out of gas 30 years ago and when it runs out the problem takes care of itself.

Councilor Daniele stated if we invest in Exxon Mobil as a shareholder and we take that money out, it doesn't actually give them less money. It's just moving the stock price down a little bit. He agrees we shouldn't invest in Exxon Mobil new bond issues, but if the bond is already issued, does it change anything with who gets the return from that.

Councilor Bradley had earlier made the point that we should look into our investment strategy and this is a great piece to that chunk. Councilor Lawrence agrees we need to look at our investment strategy as a whole, but is not sure about this. We will do research and bring back to the council if necessary.

2. Discussion regarding the Codes Enforcement and Planning Departments application, review, and permitting process. (Council Chair Piltch)(30 minutes)

Councilor Piltch explained that this is a general discussion on what permitting looks like in our town and can we improve it. Town Planner Caroline Pelletier displayed a chart that shows everything that the town does for reviews (*included as exhibit A of these minutes*). People will be shocked by the amount of review and regulation that we do. It's legitimate things that have been adopted over the years that when taken in whole is a stack of things to do to come into town. Our regulatory structure is similar to other towns of this size. The town planner and Codes Officer will give examples of the permitting process tonight.

Councilor Lawrence stated there was a franchise that wanted to come to town, but didn't because the town was too hard to work with and went to Topsham instead.

Town Planner Caroline Pelletier gave an overview presentation of what they do in planning and codes. In planning they deal with projects that are going to come before one of the boards. They come before the board for some type of use whether it's site plan, which is some kind of business subdivision. Or they might come for Design Review for building appearances. We have three levels of board review that we staff. Staff approval, which the town planner can sign off on, doesn't go to the board. Staff review is made up of 5 department heads for smaller projects that follow proper notification processes and posts agendas. They do staff reports and findings, notice of decisions and motions. Then there are larger projects that go to the Project Review Board which is a board of 7 appointed members that will be workshopping with the council on a Wednesday in March. So there is a little description of what they do:

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Site plan, Subdivision review and Design Review and the overlay District which they issue Design Review certificates for.

Caroline outlines the procedure when someone brings in an application. The first thing that happens to the application is that it is circulated internally throughout the all effected departments who see if anything sticks out before it goes to the board. Secondly, anyone could have an application that may trigger permits from outside the municipality such as Maine DEP, sign offs for water and sewer and Maine DOT. That is step one, getting through the planning process and receiving approval. The next step is to get permits from Code Enforcement. The codes officer staffs the Board of Appeals which luckily not much goes to. Reviews under the Code Enforcement purview include permits for building, electrical, plumbing, shoreland zoning, flood plain, peddlers on private property, sign permits, directional signs, Design certificates, temporary activity and well permits. Design certificates sometimes go to project review and sometimes to the Code Officer, depending on the project.

If a retail business is going into a new retail business, they could just maybe need a permit from Codes if they are doing interior improvements. A lot of times stuff triggers permitting from the State Fire Marshall, which is suffering a work backlog of construction permits, sprinkler permits and barrier free. There is other miscellaneous municipal permitting that comes into play such as Special Amusement, Victualer and Liquor licenses, Food Truck, Peddler on public property, Road Opening permits, Driveway entrance, Short Term Residential Rental permits, Sprinkler and Alarm permits and permits from the Coastal Water Commission. Caroline stated she may have missed something on the list. Not every project needs every approval.

So what does this mean? Planner Pelletier gave real life anonymous examples. It would be great to have a flip chart that showed how to do the process. Unfortunately, that doesn't work because each situation and property is unique. They have pulled together two smaller easier projects. These are the types of projects that she hears complaints on because it might be a small business owner or someone just starting out and they are doing it themselves with big engineering firms. The first example is a business that has property in the Village Commercial 1 zone, which is downtown in the heart of the village and for some applications you're also in Design Review so they are going to look at the outside of the building. In this example they had an existing mixed use building, meaning it had residential and commercial businesses in the same building. There was space in the building that was retail and the person wanted to open an office without making physical changes to the site, no addition of parking or adding plantings, i.e. no physical changes. They needed to come to Design Review and Site Plan Review. Design review covered the signs and then Site Plan Review would cover the change of use. There are different levels of reviews, staff review and project review. The staff has the ability to send something to project review which is done if it's controversial. If they need design review and we can't do anything, they don't want to send them to two boards, that doesn't make sense. The quickest way to get this person on their way was to send them to Project Review.

Councilor Egan asked why if there were no site changes proposed, why is there site plan review? Town Planner Pelletier explained it is because the ordinance requires it. When an application comes in the biggest things they look at, especially in the village are trash and parking requirements. Do our utility providers have the capacity to serve that use? Councilor Egan asked if it would be possible if the site plan for the current permitted use, which in the example is retail, if that was itemized and presented to the applicant who's going from retail to office and the applicant could avert to you that they are not expecting any changes or differences and can live with what these requirements are. That the previous site plan which was approved conforms to this. Couldn't the applicant say I can live with this. I don't need any required changes and avoid a site plan review? Caroline explained, that would require an ordinance

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change and that herself and Nick Adams have looked at these kinds of things and believe that certain uses such as the change from retail to office could be made much easier so they don't have to go to the board.

How long does it take to go through the process? People will come in and go through property files to find out background and what is involved. In this example in the downtown village, the applicant was in town looking for a place to go. They submitted an application in August. We have a 21 day submission timeline to go to Project Review Board. If this was the only application, there's definitely plenty of time to work with them. The application was reviewed by staff and they look at 10 or so standards of Site Plan Review. They work with the applicant to help them complete the package. This applicant got on the agenda 21 days later and received approval to replace signage and get the change of use in one meeting. Quite often these are conditional like in this case and we follow up with them. They needed some permits from code enforcement and they needed the sign off for the sewer stating they had the connection to serve the new use. Once they had obtained these things they applied to code enforcement on September 20th for a permit and building and sign permits were issued on October 12th. That's a snapshot of the timeline.

Do we know how long the construction took after approval? Code Officer Adams stated he thought it was a week. He thought the occupancy was held up because of a parking requirement. So two months of review for a week of work and making sure they had certain required items.

Example number two, also a smaller project in the downtown, is also in Design Review and Color Overlay District. We have a multi story building that was a restaurant which the applicant wanted to change to retail on the first floor and residential on the second floor. They needed Design Review for the outside building modifications and site changes. Then they needed site plan review for the change on the second story in the site modifications that they were making. Technically, on the first floor for that retail restaurant conversion, they wouldn't have needed anything beyond town planner review, so this one took longer. They started looking at the property in late winter, did research and were finally ready for a meeting on March 10 to look at the file, talk about process and get forms. Once they understand what the applicant wants to do, if something gets flagged they pull that department into the conversation. It can be overwhelming for the applicant to leave with a laundry list of things to do. They did their submission to go to the board two weeks later and were informed of missing items. They were on PRB agenda for April 21 where they got approval with conditions. A month later they submitted application for building and sign permits. They submitted a separate application for the retail because there was a small retail component on the first floor so they submitted a separate permit so they could have it reviewed for the first floor retail while still working on resolving some items for the second level. The reason it went till September is they had some conditions of approval that they didn't meet. They had to get Sewer District sign off and they had to show us that they weren't exceeding the impervious coverage in the village which is really important for stormwater and drainage. They submitted the outstanding documents and got the permit issued from code enforcement for the sign and building permit for the first floor. They still have that outstanding permit pending for the second floor. They needed State Fire Marshall approval which they received at the end of October and notified us of in December. A couple of weeks ago, they submitted the final plans that were approved by the Fire Marshall and now Nick can do final review. Nick Adams is hearing that review at the State Fire Marshalls Office is taking 3 to 4 months. Our process responded quickly but there's four months from when they were on the agenda and got their approval to front.

Councilor Egan wanted to know why did the applicant take four months to go from approval at the Project Review Board to submit their building permit? Caroline thinks it's because they didn't own it. Like a lot of people, small businesses come in and they'll have offers for properties contingent on purchasing it. They get the approval and they finalize their lease or they go ahead and close on the property which can contribute to the delay. She doesn't know if that was their case. It may take 11

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months for the process, but 4 months of that is the applicant not coming back in when they could have and we see that with bigger projects. They are not going to buy property till they have their approvals.

Councilor Fournier inquired to what triggered that to go to the Fire Marshalls office? Nick Adams explained that State law says if you make a change to a public building such as mercantile business, place of assembly, mixed use buildings and things like that you have to get a state fire marshal permit for construction and a barrier free ADA under Title Five and under Title 25. We do have the authority to have delegated review to do that process. Nick is certified to do that and we have changed our ordinance to do that. We don't have the staffing to add on another 100 permits. We would have to get approval from the commissioner for local authority otherwise, all these public buildings that you do these changes of use to have to go to commissioner of public safety State Fire Marshall. Councilor Fournier believes we have the expertise to be able to deal with it locally and that's another issue we can talk about.

Chair Piltch asked if Nick was able to free up more time, could he do more of that and applicants wouldn't have to wait 4 months to make business bigger. Nick replied that he is doing the reviews anyways and just doesn't have the authority even though he has the certification. We have not yet made the requests to the Commissioner of Public Safety. Would this make it mandatory for the town to do all fire marshal reviews at the local level? We would do construction permits and they would do the Barrier Free which is ADA. We would have to say we are taking all delegated responsibility for these and do them all. We would collect the fee, a certain percentage of the state fees. Nick is reviewing under the building and fire codes, but we don't have the authority. Under title five, the Fire Marshall issues the permit but it's up to the local municipality to enforce it. So we've still been required to enforce the ADA going back on Title 5, but we never did the review before till 3-4 years ago. These buildings have already been approved by the Fire Marshall for those requirements. So it's a small change of use and the protection of the buildings would not be jeopardized, we could control that. With authorization from the commissioner and having people trained on this end, could have a significant reduction in the time of the process.

Staff review only meets a couple of times a year. The biggest thing they see now are fill permits for people doing fill and just putting a driveway but they don't have any other use of their property. In the downtown, people will do small changes, but because they have that design review component quite often they need to go to the full board.

Councilor Fournier inquired what it would take to have the authority to move some of those responsibilities which originally when the staff review committee was put together, their intent was to streamline processes. Sounds like we are not utilizing that. Caroline thinks we have streamlined the process. For example, you used to go to Design Review and then went to the Planning Board, but now you go to one board. Staff review is limited in square footage and what they can do. There has been resistance in the past to delegate things to staff, whether it be Staff Review Board or the Town Planner, just having one person signing off on something. We could look at increasing those limits because the couple limits we have on the books aren't capturing a lot of uses.

Councilor Fournier thinks we should give more authority to Staff Review so they could in fact act on it because it's a limited scope on what they are doing now. That's what we could talk about.

Staff review is made up of any of their designees and the Town Planner, Code Enforcement Officer, Town Engineer, Superintendent of Public Works and the Fire Chief. Those five department heads have the ability to review an application. They do have a notification process, the notification to abutters is only five days, that would be the biggest difference and they meet Tuesdays as needed at one o'clock. They meet a couple times a year, that's because there is no "as needed". It seems to be under-utilized.

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John Egan would welcome suggestions on projects and applications that are close to that, but are over but could actually get dealt with that. It seems like a good cross section with a lot of different disciplines looking from different perspectives. That's an easy way to accelerate the timing process for an application, if we could better define and potentially expand what staff approval looks like. Caroline stated that one thing we could do is increase the square footage threshold.

How many does that catch that don't have to go to project review? Caroline would have to look at it. We can look at the last couple of years and see if we were going to make changes what they would capture. They have had a lot of design review certificates. If there's any subdivision or subdivision amendment involved, they must legally go before the Project Review Board.

We have two categories of issues, the first being the ordinances. We've got overlay districts upon Overlay Districts. It's a complicated town, partly by design, partly just because of evolution. There is confusing and conflicting language in the ordinances that needs to be cleaned up and you have ideas on your specific areas. Secondly, there is a lot of stuff going on and we're doing more of the work in town hall, not subcontracting the inspections. They had 50 projects this year. Some projects have been big and some have been controversial with different levels of public involvement and complexity.

The Town Planner and Code Officer have suggestions on ordinance areas that need to be reviewed and cleaned up that would make a difference in the overall process. They will also hear suggestions from the Project Review Board on March 16th at the workshop. They have frustrations and are eager to meet with the Council.

Ed Bradley stated we have heard that there are ordinance changes that could improve things. How do those kinds of concerns and considerations compare to the Shoreland Zoning Process that we're involved in? Shoreland Zoning is a huge project. There are simple changes we can bring forward by changing numbers. Not this big intertwine project we having waiting to get back to.

Chair Piltch asked if Caroline had ideas on the other category of problem about resourcing and how to deal with the increased volume of stuff.

Mr. Joseph stated that one idea they are battling around is the workload in codes and looking specifically at Nick's strengths, what he does and what he wants to do in terms of inspections. Then they looked at what takes away from his ability to do his inspections work which is primarily what we want him for. We need Nick for field inspections and commercial construction and things like that. Nick feels the things that take away most of his availability are zoning issues, zoning enforcement, Shoreland zoning enforcement, dealing with pre-existing situations and non-conforming properties that come up during development. Situations come up and a person can't close on a property for instance and it takes a lot of time, money and attorney involvement. The intent is to have a Zoning Administrator that can handle those specific issues. Nick would continue to do field inspections and this person would handle issues of zoning and be in contact with applicants first hand and talk through the issue. They could save Nick 8 hours of time researching in the office and this could get us to the point where we could designate some of the fire marshal review authority also.

Two people recently on Route One came in. One was a new business in town who just innocently wanted a sign permit and the town was asking "how did you get there". It's supposed to be a retail shop and doing something entirely different and they had vehicles and were on public sewer. The second came in for an addition that was last approved as a school and it's now a woodworking operation that had never been flagged to they need to go through and made sure they have parking and that they'd need to handle

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their drainage for stuff they wanted to change. So we do see it and people in that scenario need help and handholding. Hand holding is a real thing if they've been running a business for 15 years and then all of a sudden someone from town hall tells them you're in zoning non-compliance and you can't do what your doing. This is well beyond the realm of what business owners deal with. They need a translator, not a hand holder, someone that would be a dedicated person working with the property owner to get to the Council if necessary. The thought process is to free up time for Nick to do inspections and get these processes done quicker. We are well within our statutory limits but this could shorten the process by a week or more. There is revenue in the codes line from permit issuance where this position would not have a tax impact and there would potentially be a decrease in attorney fees.

Councilor Fournier would like to get the ideas about zoning changes on the radar and see it addressed in a couple months. Caroline explained that legally zoning changes need to initially go to the Planning Board and then be recommended to the Council. She agrees we should get the discussion going. She requested feedback from the councilors in regards to what they have heard and improvements they would like to see.

Councilor Daniele asked if there was a way to suspend having to send them to us or expedite the process? Mr. Joseph stated that State law says any land use ordinance has to go to the municipal reviewing authority, which is the Planning Board, even when we are making little changes. The process could be challenged in the future and approvals thrown out if the adoption process is not followed correctly.

Mr. Joseph agreed that it would advantageous for the Council to meet with the Planning Board jointly instead of discussing at council level and then taking it back to the Planning Board. Councilor Daniele would like to see the council vote on one zoning change each meeting. He asked if it was better to make a giant change versus many little changes. Caroline Pelletier will be sitting down with Nick Adams and the Town Manager after Design Week to get ideas down on paper. She asked for a consensus vote tonight that the Council would like this to go to the Planning Board to make the adjustments as recommended to staff to streamline our building processes in town, simplifying it and reducing the amount of time to go through the process. This would include an advocate and ombudsman who will help applicants figure out the process similar to the role that FEDC director Keith McBride filled when helping businesses through the planning process. John Egan reiterated that he has high confidence in the integrity of the 5-person Staff Review team consisting of Town Planner, Code Enforcement, Fire Marshal, Town Engineer and Director of Public Works and that he would encourage routine processes be addressed at that level so things could move further. She is hesitant to bring a recommendation for Design Review as none of them are trained architects or historians. Design Review is a roadblock and should be not be eliminated but should be looked at and modified. The workshop with PRB is March 16th from 5-7 pm. Councilor Piltch recapped that we have ordinances to change, policies to revise and some resources to look at during budget season.

3. Discussion about the Mallett Drive Multi-Use Path project and grant acceptance from Maine DOT for survey, preliminary engineering design, and initial right-of-way impact analysis. (Town Engineer Adam Bliss)(15 minutes)

One responsibility Adam Bliss, Town Engineer, has is capital planning and project management of town roads and infrastructure. The topic of Mallett Drive is timely because it overlaps with the upcoming ridge project. Five of the current councilors were involved with the referendum vote last year that appropriated money for a 12 foot wide multi use path across exit 22. One of the talking points throughout the

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referendum process was what does this path connect into? As a communication tool, they created the Connect Freeport website. The story map helps tell the story of how this connects to the downtown and how it connects to commuters coming from 295, route 125 and 136 and our athletic fields, conservation land on outer Pownal Road, Pownal Road Fields, Hunter Road Fields and Hedgehog Mountain. Adam is also staff person for the Complete Streets Committee and Connect Freeport Working Group. The active living sunset in June 2021. They rebranded themselves as an ad hoc committee that rolls up their sleeves and looks at bicycle pedestrian type infrastructure for the betterment of the town. The Mallet Drive corridor is a great example of how Connect Freeport and Complete Street representatives came together to apply for a grant through the Maine DOT for a bicycle pedestrian path from Main Street to the proposed bridge. We are just information sharing and not asking for money. A very positive thing happened last week when Maine DOT sent a letter announcing we were awarded a grant for design and right of way acquisition of this Mallet Drive corridor. DOT has offered up to \$200,000 for services with a \$50,000 local match. This is just advance communication that this request will show as a capital request for FY23. The Mallet Drive corridor has been through Active Living and Complete Streets for a number of years. There are many planning documents that support a multi use path along this corridor. Something we know is coming in the next few years is the repaving of Mallet Drive which is State owned and town maintained. Since it is within the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS), we are therefore eligible for grant money to pay for that road resurfacing. Couple the Complete Streets Ordinance adopted in December of 2020 and the eventual resurfacing of the road and all the planning documents that support this Mallet Drive multi use project and the timing is right to start designing, surveying and permitting this path.

Mr. Bliss turned over the floor to Doug Leland, former chair of Complete Street Committee who is also involved with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and our prior Active Living Committee. Greg Michaud was commended for pulling this grant together. They just found out about the grant opportunity and had to have a completed application to Maine DOT in 3-4 weeks which was a short time for a comprehensive application. They just received the award last week and he now puts things into 3 categories: What do we know? What don't we know? And what do we speculate? What we know is that the project to connect the east side of Freeport with the west side has been a high priority since the Active Living Plan was completed in 2014. The bridge project has the 12 foot wide multi use path, but it stops at the end of the bridge. We're short of getting to the center of town which defeats a lot of the purpose of having the multi use path. We know there will be a bridge replacement and we know we have \$200,000 available to us if we shift in our portion of that to get this project through the planning, design and acquisition process. The Maine DOT approved the entire project through construction, our application was not just planning and design. The \$200,000 funding specifies planning, design and right of way acquisition which keeps the door open for additional funds in the future. What we don't know is actual construction costs. Based on Maine DOT estimates, it would suggest that construction costs would be an additional roughly \$750,000. If the project is delayed that number would probably go up. We also don't know what Freeport's share of that construction would be. Once the design is done, MDOT has left the door open for additional funding.

Councilor Egan asked Mr. Leland for a summarization of the definition of the corridor project. The bridge ends where the current entrance to 295 North is and that's where the multi-use path ends. The project would be getting from the end of the bridge to Main Street. To him, it's an off road, dedicated multi use path. Right now if you came off the bridge you would have to make your way down the shoulder to Main Street. The 12 foot path is on the south side of the bridge.

As a town, we have the municipal ordinance infrastructure in place to make us an attractive town for investment. We have both a complete streets ordinance which includes a complete streets policy and an Active Living Plan incorporated into the ordinance. All the pieces we have in terms of planning and

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commitment to these types of projects are in place, which are the types of things investors look at and say “this is a good bet on a town that has this level of commitment”. Mallet Drive would be particularly attractive because there’s already a bridge that’s going in that’s brand new, and it will likely integrate with our Freeport Downtown visioning work. This becomes a connector. It’s a relatively short project in terms of length of a path as multi use paths go and would be a relatively short timeframe from investment to completion.

Councilor Bradley asked if the project stops there or does it go beyond the downtown in other directions east and west? What’s the ultimate scope of the project? Mr. Leland explained that it depends on how far you want to balloon it out and that if you look at Connect Freeport, they have a rough long term plan for a loop with the town of Freeport that goes out to Pine Tree Academy, Hedgehog mountain, Hunter Road Fields, Desert of Maine, the Maine Waldorf School and back down Desert Road to Route one back into town. Something like that is the long term vision. The other component of this is the Casco Bay trail which is going to be 72 mile off road trail from Portland to Lewiston, down the Androscoggin to Brunswick, back through Freeport into Portland. The section from Yarmouth to downtown is part of the East Coast Greenway as part of the Casco Bay trail as part of the Freeport Connect Loop Trail. Those are all running on the exact same trail. That’s part of the vision in terms of right in downtown. He can walk them through where they are in this project. They know where the route is and now they are moving into the design phase on a few of those sections.

Councilor Bradley asked if planning from the center of downtown to Mallet Drive is involved in this. Mr Leland stated it is part of the Casco Bay Trail and part of the East Coast Greenway. He thinks from the Complete Streets perspective, they are waiting to see where the Freeport Downtown vision comes in on bike pedestrian.

Adam stated that this project will provide safe routes to school with connection between the Middle and High School. Adam was asked when he would need the money or at least the commitment for the local match. At first, they thought it had a 30 day fuse, which was why it was on tonight’s agenda but after consult with the program administrator, we really have until May or June to make that commitment. At the very least get this documented that we are going through the capital planning process and a written agreement is contingent upon that approval. Where it’s federal money, the monies are not available until that May-June timeline anyway.

Councilor Lawrence asked what will happen with Desert Road, exit 20? DOT is already making the connection from where the sidewalk ends at the crosswalk in front of the Irving to the Bridge, across the ramp and across the bridge. We have an appropriation request in the 5 year capital plan to connect the Hunter Road to the Divine Apartments sidewalk that they already built. He thinks it’s for FY23 or maybe FY24, so it’s imminent. It is a commercial development zone further down on Desert Road, which could have expansion and that’s something we need to keep an eye on. The long term plan is to have the loop continue all the way down Desert Road. Adam is mindful of how we spend money but it would be really exciting to make this Mallet Drive connection to the Pownal Rd, Hunter Road Fields and Hedgehog Mountain and to complete the loop in and go cross country through those fields back to Desert Road. In addition to the Concord Brook trail this would be transformative for this town. He guarantees to find every dollar available as grant money.

Adam also explained that the \$25,000 previously voted is for the Safe routes to School study. The Maine DOT manager clearly said , the grant application you’re applying for is for the Mallet Drive multi use path and you’ll need to find a different avenue for the Safe Routes to School and so PACTs is that avenue. The engineer also got money for the study for Route One south. Councilor Bradley asked if Adam had given any consideration to private funding? He stated yes, community engagement is a major

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component of any capital project and certainly one of this magnitude. Mr. Leland explained that this trail network has connectivity to businesses, restaurants, breweries and retailers. He thinks there may be some synergy there to figure out how to get this done as well as through private funding.

Mr. Leland goes to Pennsylvania every few years to ride the trail there that is entirely off road. The gap portion is from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland and goes through small towns that were drying up due to the disappearance of the coal industry. The trail generated \$117 million for that stretch of trail in 2019. In 2020, they had their best year ever because people wanted to be outside during the pandemic. These trails generate a huge amount of interest and a huge amount of income for communities that make the initial investment to connect people into their community, which is why the sections we're working on right now are so important. The Casco Bay Trail Alliance is working really hard right now to open up the rail line from Portland into Lewiston. If that section opens up, it's important that Freeport has its section ready to go from Yarmouth into the center of Freeport. This parlays into downtown visioning and how patrons or visitors that come to town want an all inclusive experience from recreational to retail to a bite to eat to a nice bed and breakfast to stay at.

Adam displayed a graphic that showed 8 activity centers, Wolfe Neck being one of them along with the downtown village and the conservation lands. Complete Streets has requested 30 minutes for the workshop with the Council and they will use that opportunity to further communicate about the bridge project and status of other projects that are going on.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 9:48 p.m.(Lawrence and Fournier)VOTE:(7 Ayes)(0 Nays)

END OF AGENDA (Estimated time of adjournment 9:20 PM)

	OUTSTANDING OR UPCOMING ACTION ITEMS	INITIATED ON	PROPOSED BY	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
#1	Review of Town fee schedule this year	1/4/2022	Councilor Pillsbury	Tasked for 2022
#2	Research availability of PCR Rapid Test		Councilor Bradley	
#3	Schedule dates for touring facilities		Chair Piltch	
#4	Institute Indoor Town facilities Mask Policy		Town Manager	
#5	Determine how much is reasonable to keep in reserve accounts		Councilor Bradley	
#6	Set process for how we are going to accept applications for ARPA funding before summer		Chair Piltch	

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#7	Determine if our Capital Reserve Budget is properly funded and we have a proper schedule to set our budget priorities		Councilor Fournier	
#8	Review our codes and permitting processes in Town Hall		Chair Piltch	
#9	Explore new fire rescue substation in District 2		Councilors Fournier and Bradley	
#10	Resolve Water Tank Contract		Mr. Joseph	
#11	Sewer district-workshop			
#12	Divestment Discussion and Investment policy			
#13	Planning and Codes Permitting policies			