

Cheryl O'Gara
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Freetown Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 4, 2021 – 3:00pm

Police Station Community Room

15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown

Call to Order

At 3:04pm Selectmen Trevor Matthews called the meeting to order and announced they will be going to Executive Session and then returning to Open Session.

In attendance are Interim Town Administrator Deborah L. Petty, Selectmen Trevor Mathews, Selectmen George Grunwald, Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza. Selectmen Matthews also said that Selectmen Jared Zager and Attorney George Pucci are calling in via phone. They will be going into Executive session for the following two reasons.

Executive Session

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a)(3) – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Public Employees Union, Local 1144 LIUNA (all bargaining units), the Freetown Police Association and the Freetown Full-Time Firefighters Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares
2. M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) - to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Excel Recycling, LLC vs. Town of Freetown
 - Motion made to go into executive Session by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Matthews.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews -yes

Public Hearing 4:00pm

Selectmen Matthews opened the public hearing at 4:05pm.

In attendance are Jim Bernadino from CMG Engineering, Dale Barrows Interim Health Agent, Cheryl Estrella Freetown Town Clerk, Paula Macdonald of King Information System, Paul Sadeck Building Committee, Lisa Pacheco Building Committee, Christine Paiva Resident, Bruce Wilbur Council on Aging Board, Mike McCue Town Moderator/Board of Assessors, Lori Desmarais Public Health Nurse, Resident Patricia Chace-O'Gara.

3. Discussion and vote on Fuel Storage License request from Devcon Innovation Way, LLC to locate 35,000-gallon Gasoline and 35,000-gallon Diesel tanks at 0 Innovation Way, Plot 236, Lot 6.02 Assonet MA.

Jim Bernadino with CMG Engineering has put together the fuel license application on behalf of Devcon Innovations Way LLC. A 6400 sq ft. convenience store with a drive thru, 3500 sq ft plus or minus restaurant with the drive-thru, retail, restaurant mix at the north end of the property. Property is on Innovation Way northeast of the Amazon Distribution Center. Also, north of the Fall River town line. CMG Engineering is seeking to provide seventy thousand gallons of total fuel underground. Thirty-five thousand gallons of gasoline and approximately 35 thousand of diesel. This will service the convenience store portion which will have five multi product dispensers pumping from both sides totaling ten fueling positions each. On the southern portion of the property are the three underground tanks they are seeking permission for storing the fuel. They have contacted the fire department and worked out the applications with them. The fire department staff were great to work with as they guided him, and he thanked them. Selectmen Matthews asked about the abutters have been notified, Jim said yes. No abutters were present. Selectmen Grunwald asked if there were any restaurants lined up and Mr. Bernardo was unaware at this time.

- Motion to approve the Fuel Storage License request from Devcon Innovation Way, LLC to locate 35,000-gallon Gasoline and 35,000-gallon Diesel tanks at 0 Innovation Way, Plot 236, Lot 6.02 Assonet MA made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

4. Discussion, and vote to approve the change of status forms for Marc Gaspar, Douglas Mongeon and Seth M DeMello as Student Officer effective 11/1/2021.
- Motion to approve the change of status forms for Marc Gaspar, Douglas Mongeon and Seth M DeMello as Student Officer effective 11/1/2021 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

5. Discussion, and vote on approval of the appointment of Beverly Sadeck to the Library Planning Committee effective 10/4/2021-6/30/2022.
 - Motion to approve the appointment of Beverly Sadeck to the Library Planning Committee effective 10/4/2021-6/30/2022 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes
6. Read public comment on upkeep of Trahan Memorial Roundabout.

Lawrence Gonet of Professional Tree & Landscaping would like to give kudos to Chuck Macomber for keeping the Trahan Memorial Roundabout looking good. Mr. Gonet and his company had maintained the Trahan Memorial for over 10 years with flowers, mulch, bushes and much more. The Board of Selectmen would like to recognize both gentlemen and thank them for all their hard work.
7. Discussion, and vote to approve the agreement between Isabel Ferreira and the Town of Freetown.
 - Motion to approve the agreement between Isabel Ferreira and the Town of Freetown made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes
8. Appoint Isabel Ferreira as Department Assistant effective 10/5/21-10/31/21.
 - Motion to appoint Isabel Ferreira as Department Assistant effective 10/5/21-10/31/21 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes
9. Rescind the appointment of Patricia Rodrick as Treasurer/Tax Collector effective 9/27/2021-6/30/22.
 - Motion to rescind the appointment of Patricia Rodrick as Treasurer/Tax Collector effective 9/27/2021-6/30/22 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

10. Appoint Patricia Rodrick as Treasurer/Tax Collector effective 10/1/2021-6/30/2022.

- Motion to appoint Patricia Rodrick as Treasurer/Tax Collector effective 10/1/2021-6/30/2022 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

11. Approve the meeting minutes from 9/16/2021.

- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/16/2021 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

12. Discussion on archival audit and conditions of archive retention program at old schoolhouse. Vote to have one Selectmen work with Kings Information System and Town Clerk on this project. Freetown Town Clerk Cheryl Estrella and from King Information System Paula Macdonald who are our current archival partner. Current conditions at our old schoolhouse next door to the Town Hall has not received any attention since 2018. We are currently out of compliance with state regulations. There are smells of mold and mildew, rat feces, boxes deteriorating, books are now warped due to the moisture content from standing water. The Building Inspector Jeffrey Chandler started a cleanup process getting spiderwebs and rodent issues cleaned up about 2 weeks ago. The building is not up to par. Discussion today is a two-part request hoping to work with one of the Board of Selectmen or the new Interim Town Administrator Deb Pettey regarding following state regulations and going forward to relative retention. A memo shows the proposal for an archival audit which should be done every two years, its hasn't been done since. The Town Clerk's office has been using King Information for their own interdepartmental records retention for years. In 2018 rather than each department holding on to their own records, they were going to do the archival retention for all departments. This needs to be addressed so that we are complying. Paula Macdonald from King Information System came in August to visit the archives over at the schoolhouse. KIS implemented the system in May 2018 at a cost of twenty-thousand-dollar investment. Not only to preserve the history of the town but to ensure the day-to-day activities of the town. KIS always recommends an archive audit every other year. There was none here for the past three and a half years due to covid, and the former town clerk retiring. Ms. Macdonald shared her findings found a strong musty, damp odor, rodent feces, no heating or cooling

system which is not a good environment for archiving records. Other problems are the high humidity, gaps in the building, poor housekeeping, no insulation, ceilings falling thru, and one pane glass window. Subjecting the towns history to the elements. Town Clerk Estrella is not sure if it has a fire suppression system or smoke alarms. She continues, windows not being secured at street level is very concerning. Wires are visible in the ceiling. It's becoming a storage area for dumping chairs and desks due to shortage of space. That's why the town hall basement files were moved to the schoolhouse for lack of storage. There are security issues as well. Around 486 boxes there. About 12 to 20 are miscellaneous files in boxes. KIS can organize these as well, letting us know what can be shredded/destroyed. KIS has microfiche the Town Clerk's records dated back to 1683 up to 2018. To save money we get 3- or 4-years' worth of documents microfiche scanned and put on cd. Copies are made and kept offsite. Selectmen Matthews asked about the timeline where we go from here. Town Clerk Estrella stated the biggest issue is do we spend time and money and allocate it to the schoolhouse building to bring it up to compliance with the state regulations or do we find a place to store those records. The town hall is too small for a central archive system, we are in a flood zone, ceilings are too low, the granite posts have disintegrated to the point we have tree trunks holding up Town Hall. Previous building inspector has stated that we can't add any more weight to the building. Town Hall was built in 1888. In 2013 there was a feasibility study done where every building (besides the Police Station) is in need. Do we have alternative space to store these records? Selectmen Matthews asked if there was storage here at the police station. Ms. Estrella has not talked to the Chief of Police nor taken a tour of the station. Supposedly there is a second floor and not sure of the details. Also mentions is the elementary school has a bottom floor with space, climate-controlled shipping containers which may be costly. Paul Sadek mentioned the schoolhouse is old. Years ago, it had a grant secured by the Historical Society to make it watertight. In his opinion the town should not be spending money on the schoolhouse but a new town hall. He doesn't want to see taxpayers' money wasted. Ms. Macdonald stated they can provide start to finish services for us once we have found a place to store it. Selectmen Matthews agrees something needs to be done.

- Motion to have Selectmen Matthews and ITA Deb Pettey and Town Clerk Cheryl Estrella moving forward and working with Kings Information System made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

13. Discussion on Council on Aging Warrant Article and update on building options.

Question was raised about the discussion of a combined Library and Council on Aging. Selectmen Matthews said it was an option Compass Group put together for us. It was Thirteen Million Dollars and extremely expensive. Mr. Sadeck said the higher cost was for the State's recommendations for the library if we wanted to rely on the State to fund the project. If we, do it ourselves it is not going to cost us that much. Selectmen Matthews wants to talk more about it with the Compass Group. Ms. Pacheco feels this is so confusing and we don't know who's driving this. The Building Committee never explored the options. There was a warrant article by petition is where it stemmed from. Once the article got passed with Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars there was no plan laid out, the Building Committee jointly with the COA discussed all options. It was presented as an addition to the building, a new building, or a joint COA, Library building. After that nothing came back. The Building Committee and COA met as a joint group to go over the 3 options. Then there was a joint meeting with the COA, and the Board of Selectmen and we went through the different options, and we decided to go with the option one scheme two. Since then, the costs have gone up. The recent estimate is scheme 1 is Two point Eight Million, scheme 2 is Two point Five Million. The heart of the problem is, the value of the property is so low, almost any investment we put into that property is going to trigger all these new ADA requirements, most of this cost is tied up with the ADA requirement, even if we scale back, there's no way we can scale back far enough to not trigger all the ADA requirements. Back in July 13 Mr. DiGiammo of Compass Group gave an updated minimum expansion to the existing COA building estimated price of Six Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Dollars. This does not include the elevator. This option would require a variance from the MA Architectural Access Board. Chances of this is slim and doesn't resolve the existing issues or concerns such as the HVAC or plumbing. Once Town meeting votes on the warrant, we need a meeting with the COA and Building Committee, subcommittee working together to figure out who will lead and drive this to the finish line and make final decisions. Selectmen Grunwald asked if we could increase the amount on the warrant. ITA Pettey say no because it doesn't give the people enough notice that it's a new amount, Residents might not come out for Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand, but they may come out if it is Two point Five Million. Mr. Sadeck stated he thought with the special town meeting coming up we would have an article saying if the town would vote to approve the expansion and remodeling of the COA for One point Nine Million. Ms. Pacheco also said there is a process you must go through to bring it to town meeting. It must go through the engineering services; you must have exactly what you're going to need, Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand will go towards the engineering services, they will come up with a hard number for design and other issues. Then you will have the final numbers. Then comes construction documents. The Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand plus the other Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand is not going to cover all of them. Selectmen Matthews mentioned when Compass Group started studying all the ADA requirements this would be a lot more money than we initially thought. Selectmen Grunwald asked Moderator Mike McCue if the numbers can be changed at town meeting. Mr. McCue said the article states Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars for site evaluation and design services, project management services for design bidding and construction including but not limited to schematic design construction documents, bidding and construction oversight of the addition, renovation and incidental costs related there too.

This article is designed to fund the administrative part of this, it's not designed to build anything. The way this article is worded even if you added more money to it, that more money could not be used for construction because that's outside the scope of this article. It can only be used to oversee the construction. You can use it for construction the Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars that was appropriated last year because that was for the addition and renovation. But you could not add construction money to this article that's on now because this article doesn't call for actual construction work. Selectmen Grunwald said the timeline would be as we vote this in at the meeting, then what ever numbers we come up with through the process will then be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. McCue said yes or if you chose to have another town meeting between now and then. There is nothing that stops you. Assuming you are paying for it out of free cash and not out of an appropriation that required tax revenue, there would be nothing that would stop you from having another town meeting in the next eight months. If you were to get firm numbers in January and you wish to have a town meeting in February, you could do that. Selectmen Grunwald asked Mr. Sadeck and Ms. Pacheco, do you support this COA project? Mr. Sadeck said at a previous meeting he made a motion to go with option two, because the discussion of a joint library, senior center was off the table. But I think we should do a senior center the right way with option two. Our town is going to have to do something about our library in the future. Selectmen Matthews says when we get this building updated and compliant it becomes a nice town building. Down the road we can plan a new Town Hall / Library / COA in the middle of town and then we would have this current COA space that can be transferable to other departments. The more updated buildings we have in town the better.

14. Announcement that The Department of Conservation and Recreation may acquire an interest in a parcel of land located in Freetown (lies contiguous to Freetown Fall River State Forest in the Town of Freetown) as shown on the attached locus map marked as "Exhibit A" for Conservation and/or recreation purposes.

Selectmen Matthews read the following:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through its Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has under consideration the acquisition of the fee or lesser interest in approximately 20.00 acres of forest land that lies contiguous to Freetown-Fall River State Forest in the Town of Freetown. The current owners use of the property is undeveloped forest land.

If acquired by the state, the property will become part of the abutting Freetown-Fall River State Forest and DCR will retain the property as undeveloped open space, woodland, for natural resource protection, passive recreation, and other Conservation and recreational purposes.

15. Discussion, and vote on how many Zoom accounts the Town needs.

We currently have 10 accounts, and the proposed new list is five. Cost per zoom account is \$19.99 a month. Its currently funded by the Cares Act, which is ending in October. Selectmen Matthews noted

five zoom accounts should be sufficient for the town right now. It might be less in the future. ITA Pettey suggested if departments want to keep a zoom account, they can buy it and put it in their own operating budget as an office expense. This is to transition off the Cares Act money.

- Motion to move forward with Five (5) Zoom user accounts made by Selectmen Grunwald and second by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

16. Discussion, and vote on procedure to book, and any fees to utilize the Bandstand and Hathaway Park. A musical group practices on Saturday evenings, other people have reached out for craft fairs or vendor fairs. Town Clerk Ms. Estrella stated they have had calls to utilize the bandstand for weddings. She refers them to the Board of Selectmen's office because they have the appointing authority and the branding authority in the past. It's been politely refused because of its status of the structure. It's a beautiful attraction. Many towns use their bandstand for activities. Selectmen Matthews doesn't want the formality of people needing to request to use the bandstand until it's all fixed. First come first served. Liability was mentioned and Executive Assistant Ms. Souza will check to see if there is an umbrella policy and what it would cover. ITA Ms. Pettey suggested if they are having a certain number of people then you would want them to ask permission just so you could notify Police and Fire that there's going to be 50 or more people at the bandstand. Parks are open to the public, reading a book, using a swing set. Eventually we will need to draw a line when the bandstand is completed, and you don't want to invite liability right now. For a wedding, we may want them to come in and ask for permission or have a one-day permit so that you have the information to pass along to the police department. You don't want them to block Four Corners and there is a fire somewhere and they can't get through to it. Town Clerk Ms. Estrella also mentioned using time constraints because if you're assigning a one-day permit it doesn't mean that they can utilize it for 10 hours until it gets dark. You also have the open railing with the caution tape that she personally put up to think about. There is an open gate/fence that children can go through and over into the water. With weddings and receptions there must be regulations, stipulations, and time frames. Mr. McCue stated with the Strawberry Festival the Tuesday Club of Assonet sends a letter, the Selectmen vote to do that because that draws a lot of people to town. It's a Ten Dollar (\$10.00) fee and will provide a certificate of insurance. Selectmen Grunwald mentioned where do you draw the line? It's a public event. If a few people want to sit there sing and play guitar, let them go for it.

17. Discussion, and vote on Living Grace Family Chiropractic request to host a 5K on 10/10/2021.

Police and Fire are ok with this, they have both sign off on it.

- Motion to accept Living Grace Family Chiropractic request to host a 5K on 10/10/2021 made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

18. Discussion, and vote on agreement between the Town of Freetown and Tasco Construction, Inc. for South Main Street sidewalk reconstruction project.

- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Tasco Construction, Inc. for South Main Street sidewalk reconstruction project made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

19. Discussion, and vote on Land in Lakeville Freetown is receiving a property tax bill on.

Board of Assessor Mike McCue stated Lakeville is sending us a tax bill, about 20 years ago, a subdivision that was done behind Apponequet, partially in Lakeville and partially in East Freetown. At the end of that planning process there was about One Hundred and Fifty (150) or so acres that was left over, it was swampy land and not useful to the developer. Basically, there was some sort of agreement that the land was going to be given to the Conservation Commission of the two towns. Lakeville part and the Freetown part. The way the deed was written our town somehow ended up with all the land and Lakeville began taxing us on it because we are not exempt from paying property taxes in Lakeville. We own it but it is still in Lakeville. I have a letter from the Lakeville Assessors, who were discussing this back on September 30th, 2004, indicating that they were trying to get the developer's Attorney to correct this by writing new deeds. That apparently never happened. If they did not bring forward new deeds, Lakeville would simply take this through tax title. Then we should not pay the bill and Lakeville would take it from us. Selectmen Grunwald asked Mr. McCue if the town bills the State of Massachusetts for the forest that they own now here in Freetown? Mr. McCue said we cannot bill the state, but they pay us a form of PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes). It is not the most advantageous PILOT because they tell us how much they are going to pay, and we just say thank you. Selectmen Matthews stated he knows New Bedford owns some property in Freetown, they pay property tax on that. Mr. McCue said New Bedford's water department also pays a form of PILOT because they are exempt, Fall River's water department pays us a full tax bill. The Fall River redevelopment authority pays us property tax on the land they have on Innovation Way. Lakeville and Freetown both have

different Assessors and staff than there was 17 years ago. I do not know if they are trying to be polite or whatever the case maybe, but they put this in a tax title, but they have never actually taken it from us. We want them to take it from us or for our town council to tell us how to just give them the part of land. We do not want it because its Conservation land, but it is not in our town. They want it more than we want it, and we want them to have it more than we want it. Now you know why you are getting a tax bill and you needed to know why you are not paying it.

Mr. McCue's recommendation is when land is given to a Conservation Commission, the Conservation Commission is supposed to vote to accept it, the Selectmen are supposed to vote to approve that and that never happened here. I imagine because the deed was written in correctly. Lakeville Assessors in their 2004 letter kind of alluded that because they say if we vote to accept it, we should specifically exclude the land that is in Lakeville and make sure that we do not accept that. You could take that step. You could have both the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen here to vote to accept and approve the land that is here and put that on record. It does not solve the fact that there is a deed on record that says the land is being given to Freetown, that is in another town, that we don't want, and we should not have. If Lakeville is not going to foreclose on it, then we need to find out how to give it to them. We will want to reach out to Town Council. We want to be careful in the end we do not want to somehow lose the part that we have. It was not supposed to come to us, we just need to figure out how to straighten out the Lakeville part of it.

20. Discussion on Representative Town Meetings.

The Selectmen asked for more information about this. We have an Open Town Meeting right now, which means any registered voter can come to a Town Meeting and vote. Towns that have a population over Six Thousand are allowed to adopt what is called Representative Town Meeting which is like having a mini conference or a city council. You get to vote for representatives by precinct who come and vote for you and not all registered voters are able to attend. The pros and cons of that are the following, the pro is you have a fixed number of people who you know is your maximum for coming. So, you don't have some of the problems we have had in the past with trying to find a venue because there's no possibility you are going to have a thousand voters show up or Seven Hundred, you are fixed to the number that is typically three hundred or fewer. The major con is that it excludes a lot of people from coming to vote. When you have an issue, like the trash contract last spring, is a perfect example of that. If you had two hundred and fifty representatives than all the other people who have very strong opinions on the trash contract would not have been allowed to come in and express their opinion. Going by the 2020 census, our population is 9206. 3 towns in our state are lower than us. Lee has 5788, they adopted representative town meeting when they had more than six thousand (6,000) people and they now have fewer, once you have it, they do not take it away from you. Adams and

Montague are also lower than us. Local towns of Fairhaven and Dartmouth have representative town meeting, no one else in Bristol County has it. Plymouth has sixty-one thousand, two hundred and seventeen people and is the only town in Plymouth County that has it. Middleboro has a high population and do not have representative government. Falmouth is the only one in Barnstable County who does have it. Mr. McCue feels we are too small and our electorate here is not the most engaged but when there is a hot button issue, they do come out and thinks it would be a disservice to send half of them away. Town Clerk Ms. Estrella stated with everything taken away from all of us that's one thing that would be very concerning to me is taking people's ability to vote in this town. Is a very old town and we like the democratic way. We want to have our voices heard and it is not always guaranteed. But depending on the issues, are you going to have that representative with full force, going to attend the meetings and get the consensus voice heard.

Board of Health

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

21. Discussion on back up COVID19 plan for hosting Special Town Meeting in the event COVID19 protocols require modifications.

Public Health Nurse Lori Desmarais stated cases are up, 23 cases from last week. For September a total of 88 cases. 26 of the 88 were the Delta Variant. Positivity rate of 4.38% came back positive last week, this week was 4.95%. There are currently 22 active cases. 4 cases so far for the month of October. For the town meeting, the board should consider mask wearing. We may see an increase in the older population attend the meeting because of the COA article on the agenda. They are at high risk. The board will ask people to mask up for the meeting, but it will be up to the voters. Keep in contact with Lakeville because the meeting is held in Lakeville and if their Board of Health comes up with an indoor mask mandate we may have to move to a venue in our own town. The school department has left it up to the Board of Selectmen.

- Motion made to strongly encourage attendance to the town meeting to wear a mask made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

22. Discussion and vote on 4 Huron Ave, East Freetown, MA variances for leaching field, setbacks to wells and surface water supplies.

There are 8 local upgrades on the plans and one Title 5 for Client Matt Bivens. No abutters were present. Interim Health Agent Dale Barrows stated it's a lot better than what is there now.

- Motion to approve on 4 Huron Ave, East Freetown, MA variances for leaching field, setbacks to wells and surface water supplies made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

23. Discussion on Transfer Station Hours.

Selectmen Zager stated that recently concerned residents have reach out to him about not being able to go to the transfer station on Sundays. He let them know they were looking at the hours, such as opening one night or doing something on Sundays for certain times of the seasons for fall or spring cleaning. He would rather be consistent year-round. Resident Patti Chase O'Gara shared she has lived here for 18 years, and it closed at 3:30pm during the week and she works Saturdays, and her husband has Sundays and Mondays off when the transfer station is closed. There is no way for them to get there within these open hours. They only use it for brush, leaves and pine needles. She is there spring and fall using the transfer station. Selectmen Matthews stated this change was made at the request of the transfer station employees themselves. The previous Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen discussed it at a meeting, and it was voted on. He suggested we hold a public hearing on this subject. Ms. Chase wanted to know why were the hours changed in the first place? There was always two people working there. Selectmen Zager stated part of the issue was lack of help. So, they looked at the hours and were told Sundays was a slow day. No proof was had, just what the employees told us. Town Clerk Cheryl Estrella stated Supervisor Vicky King was there for a time by herself and with the new fiscal year they hired Tom Ashley from the Highway Department to come over. We do have a per diem staff that does work there. Tracking numbers of customers for brush are not going to be there because there is no charge to drop off brush. Selectmen Matthews mentioned he remembers the conversation and said at the meeting we will see how it works. If it doesn't work, we don't have a problem changing it back to the way it was or come up with some different form of hours especially during spring and fall clean up. Ms. Chase requested the meeting be announced on the Freetown Flash and Selectmen Zager wants to give everyone their fair chance to speak. Selectmen Matthews agrees this item really impacts people on a day-to-day basis. He is ok with sending out a Freetown Flash letting people know we are discussing potentially changing the hours. Also making Supervisor Vicky King aware so they have an opportunity to state their case. Maybe their views have changed in this subject. Everyone agreed we need to get the word out about the meeting to discuss the transfer station hours.

- Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager-yes, Selectmen Grunwald-yes, Selectmen Matthews-yes

Board of Park Commissioners

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

No topics for discussion

Town Administrators Report

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

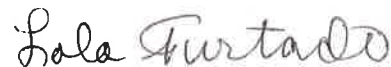
Please note: The Board may take up any other business to properly come before the Board that was not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before this meeting.

Old Business:

Potential discussion on pending items – action will not be taken at this meeting:

- Town Beach
- Boat Ramp
- Town Administrator Search/Coverage

Respectfully submitted,



Lola Furtado

Administrative Assistant

Exhibits and Documents used by the Board during this meeting

- Memo: Change of Status – Student Officers
- Memo: Appointment to Library Planning Committee
- Memo: Trahan Memorial Grounds
- Memo: Isabel Ferreira Department Assistant

- Memo: Appointment Treasurer/Tax Collector
- Meeting Minutes from 09/16/2021
- Memo: Archival Audit Request & Conditions of Archive Retention Program at "Old Schoolhouse"
- Memo: Council on Aging Warrant Article
- Feasibility Study for the Freetown Council on Aging Building
- Memo: Land being acquired by DCR
- Memo: Zoom Accounts for Town
- Memo: Use of Bandstand and Hathaway Park
- Living Grace Family Chiropractic Request 5K Walk and Vendor Fair
- Agreement: Town of Freetown and Tasco Construction Inc
- Conservation Commission – Land in Lakeville
- Email: Representative Town Meeting Take-aways
- Outback Engineering Letter #4 Huron Avenue