

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): June 6, 2023

FRESHPET, INC.  
(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

<u>Delaware</u> (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	<u>001-36729</u> (Commission File Number)	<u>20-1884894</u> (IRS Employer Identification No.)
<u>400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor Secaucus, NJ</u> (Address of Principal Executive Offices)		<u>07094</u> (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (201) 520-4000

Not Applicable  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instructions A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	FRPT	NASDAQ Global Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

The Board has announced the postponement of the 2023 annual meeting of stockholders (the “2023 Annual Meeting”) to October 2023, which will be a similar time period as the 2022 annual meeting of stockholders (the “2022 Annual Meeting”). The Company will publish additional details regarding the exact time, location, record date and matters to be voted on at the 2023 Annual Meeting in the Company’s definitive proxy materials for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Given the delay in the Annual Meeting, the Company expects to have an additional fourth candidate available to stand for election as a Class III director at the Annual Meeting in October 2023, in addition to the three director nominees already named in the Company’s preliminary proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 2, 2023.

As a result, a nomination for election to the Board shall be considered timely, but only with respect to the nominee for the new position created by the one seat increase, if it is delivered with proper notice to our Corporate Secretary (c/o Corporate Secretary, Freshpet, Inc., 400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor, Secaucus, NJ 07094, Attention: Corporate Secretary) no later than the close of business on June 16, 2023.

On June 6, 2023, the Company issued a press release announcing the postponement of the 2023 Annual Meeting and the nomination of four director nominees at the 2023 Annual Meeting. A copy of the press release is filed with this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

**Exhibit  
Number**

99.1	<a href="#">Press Release, dated June 6, 2023</a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

**Important Additional Information and Where to Find It**

This communication is being made in connection with the Annual Meeting. The Company intends to file a proxy statement (the “Proxy Statement”), an accompanying WHITE proxy card and other relevant documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) in connection with the Annual Meeting. BEFORE MAKING ANY VOTING DECISION, SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING. Security holders may obtain free copies of the Proxy Statement and other documents containing important information about Freshpet once such documents are filed with the SEC, free of charge through the website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Copies of the documents will also be available free of charge on the “Investors” section of Freshpet’s website at [www.investors.freshpet.com](http://www.investors.freshpet.com).

## **Participants in the Solicitation**

Freshpet, members of our Board and certain of our executive officers are “participants” in the solicitation of proxies from the Company’s stockholders in connection with the Annual Meeting. Information regarding the Board and executive officers and their respective interests in the Company, by security holdings or otherwise, is set forth in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2023, as amended on May 1, 2023. To the extent such ownership interests have changed since such filings, such changes have been reflected on Statements of Change in Ownership on Form 4 filed with the SEC, and will be reflected in the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting when filed with the SEC. Security holders may obtain free copies of these documents as described above.

## **Forward Looking Statements**

Certain of the Company’s statements included herein constitute “forward-looking” statements, including statements related to the future impact of the novel coronavirus, the future progress of our Freshpet Kitchens expansion, future governance changes, our growth potential and plans, our projected or targeted operating results, our ability to meet our sustainability targets, goals, and commitments, including due to the impact of climate change, our expectations regarding our future operating and economic environment, and our long-term capacity planning. These statements are based on management’s current opinions, expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or projections regarding future events or future results. These forward-looking statements are only predictions, not historical fact, and involve certain risks and uncertainties, as well as assumptions. Actual results, levels of activity, performance, achievements and events could differ materially from those stated, anticipated or implied by such forward-looking statements. While Freshpet believes that its assumptions are reasonable, it is very difficult to predict the impact of known factors, and, of course, it is impossible to anticipate all factors that could affect actual results. There are risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from forward-looking statements made herein, including potential costs associated with shareholder activism. For a detailed discussion of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those anticipated or expressed in any forward-looking statements, see the section entitled “Risk Factors” in the Company’s latest annual report on Form 10-K and its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC. Such forward-looking statements are made only as of the date they are made. Freshpet undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement because of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by law. If we do update one or more forward-looking statements, no inference should be made that we will make additional updates with respect to those or other forward-looking statements.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FRESHPET, INC.

Date: June 6, 2023

By: /s/ Todd Cunfer

Name: Todd Cunfer

Title: Chief Financial Officer

**Freshpet Provides Update on 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

*2023 Annual Meeting to be held in October*

*Four director seats will be up for election*

**SECAUCUS, N.J. – June 06, 2023** – (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – The Freshpet, Inc. (NASDAQ: FRPT) (“Freshpet” or the “Company”) Board of Directors (the “Board”) today issued the following statement regarding its 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and proxy contest with JANA Partners LLC (“JANA”):

The Company first became aware of JANA’s investment in Freshpet on September 22, 2022, when JANA publicly disclosed both its ownership interest and its agreement with three individuals to be nominated as directors at the 2023 Annual Meeting. In the interest of resolving JANA’s campaign and avoiding continued distraction, we would have preferred to convene the 2023 Annual Meeting in July to allow shareholders to express their views on an expedited basis. However, JANA’s litigation about the timing of the meeting and the placement of the directors in the appropriate classes has made holding the 2023 Annual Meeting in July unfeasible. As a result, the Company will postpone the 2023 Annual Meeting to a date in October, a similar time period as last year.

Freshpet has been conducting a broad director search that identified multiple candidates, not all of whom were available for immediate appointment to the Board. In fact, the Board invited JANA to interview the two top candidates, and JANA agreed that both directors were great additions to the Freshpet Board. The first candidate, Dave Biegger, was appointed last month and will stand for election in 2024. Given the delay in the Annual Meeting, the Company expects to have an additional candidate available to stand for election as a Class III director at the Annual Meeting in October 2023, along with three incumbent directors. We will permit JANA to have four director nominees stand for election.

While neither of these actions are required, the Board believes this is the most practical path forward in light of JANA’s recent actions and in order to eliminate the disruption caused by the JANA litigation.

Freshpet remains open to avoiding the continued distraction of a proxy contest and the Company reiterates our offer to interview JANA’s independent director nominees in an effort to achieve a beneficial resolution. We look forward to continuing to engage with all Freshpet shareholders, including JANA, about our strong business momentum.

Since September 2022, the Company has met or exceeded expectations every quarter, reduced its capital spending commitments, demonstrated improved operating performance, and opened its Ennis, Texas facility, as well as its second distribution center on time and under budget. The Company posted 27% year-over-year growth in the first quarter 2023, demonstrating that it continues to execute its strategy and is on track to deliver significant shareholder value.

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## **About Freshpet**

Freshpet is the leading fresh food for dogs and cats. Since its conception in 2006, Freshpet has been on a mission to transform the lives of dogs and cats through the power of fresh, nutritious food, while pushing the boundaries of sustainable practices. The recipes are developed by Veterinarian Nutritionists and made with natural whole ingredients, like fresh meats, vegetables and fruits, which are cooked in small batches at lower temperatures to preserve their natural goodness. Sustainably-made in Bethlehem, PA and their new Kitchens in Ennis TX, Freshpet foods and treats are kept refrigerated until they arrive at Freshpet fridges in your local market, or are delivered direct to your door.

Freshpet is available in a growing number of mass, grocery, natural food, club, and pet specialty retailers across the United States, Canada and Europe, as well as online in the U.S. for direct delivery and through its partnership with Petco. From the care taken in partnering with farmers whose values align with theirs, to how each recipe is made, Freshpet's commitment to integrity, transparency and social responsibility is a point of pride.

## **Connect with Freshpet:**

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<http://instagram.com/Freshpet>

<http://pinterest.com/Freshpet>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@freshpet>

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## Participants in the Solicitation

Freshpet, members of our Board of Directors and certain of our executive officers are "participants" in the solicitation of proxies from the Company's shareholders in connection with the Annual Meeting. Information regarding the Company's Board of Directors and executive officers and their respective interests in the Company, by security holdings or otherwise, is set forth in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2023, as amended on May 1, 2023. To the extent such ownership interests have changed since such filings, such changes have been reflected on Statements of Change in Ownership on Form 4 filed with the SEC, and will be reflected in the Proxy Statement for the 2023 Annual Meeting when filed with the SEC. Security holders may obtain free copies of these documents as described above.

## Investor Contact

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