



Quarterly Newsletter

11-12-2024

Committee Updates:

- Planning Board:

Now that our work on the Solar Ordinance is done, the Planning Board will research and draft an ordinance related to mobile home parks. We will also consider what is required of us to comply with a new state law regarding housing accessibility; and determine whether we want to draft an ordinance on short-term housing. The Board has decided to revert to meeting only once a month after meeting twice a month over the past year. The public is welcome to attend our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, from 6 pm to no later than 8 pm, at the Freedom Town Office The chairman can be contacted at planningboard@freedomme.org or 207-323-3462
- Recreation:
 - Trunk or Treat was a success! Our Veteran's Day celebration was well attended and appreciated by all. The committee is now planning for the holidays and looking for new members.
- Appeals Board: Mike Smith, Chairperson
 - appealsboard@freedomme.org
- Cemetery: Steve Holmes, Chairperson
 - We are getting closer to getting a stone for Revolutionary War soldier Levi Temple. We are still looking for Beaver Hill cemetery. We were told the other day that there are possibly 2 cemeteries up there. As always, there is lots to be done and we are a very small group and are always looking for more members. A lot of the work is doing research online if you prefer to do that.
- Budget: Laura Greeley, Chairperson
- Community Advisory Development Committee (CDAC): Lissa Widoff, Chairperson

The Freedom Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) was established in 2020 to oversee the cleanup of the

old Skidgel's store site, formerly a Cannery that indicates the former prominence of Freedom as an agricultural and commercial hub in Waldo County. When the cleanup was completed, the Freedom CDAC expanded its purpose in 2021 to include the development of the Skidgels/Cannery Lot for the economic, social and environmental betterment of the town of Freedom.

In 2023, the town received funding through the Community Resilience Program that allows towns to plan for the impacts of climate change and how to improve quality of life for residents. The funding was for site assessment work to help us in considering future uses of the site. A public presentation of the work of the Committee will be held on Wed. Nov. 20 from 6-7:30 pm at the Town Office Annex. Town Residents and the public are invited to hear about the results and offer input into future proposals. A complete agenda will be posted on the Town of Freedom website by Nov. 7. Please join us, refreshments provided!

- BroadBand: Phil Bloomstein, Chairperson
 - See attached flyer
- Ad Hoc Policy: Rene Oullet, Chairperson
 - The Freedom Select Board established the Ad Hoc Policy Committee in June 2023. The task given to the committee is to work in conjunction with the Select Board to identify Town policies in need of revision or updating and then prepare a draft revision for the Select Board to review and take action on. Committee members are Elaine Higgins, vice chair, Alexis Bennett, secretary and Rene Ouellet, chair. Thus far the committee has presented 8 policy drafts that have been ratified by the Board. The Board recently expanded the task for the committee to include development of an employee handbook for the Town's Employees. That is our current task. Generally the committee meets every other week at the Town Office Voting Annex. Meetings are posted on the town website and at Town Offices and are open to the public.

Town Officials:

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess

Please take the opportunity to visit the RSU 3 website. rsu3.org Look for the monthly newsletter from the Superintendent's office and review the Events Calendar for items of community interest such as Concert programs, Games, and the always popular Annual Craft Fair. And open to the entire community, please take advantage of the Mt View High School Library and

Fitness center. On December 10, the towns of Waldo and Brooks will vote as to whether or not to keep Morse Memorial open in Brooks and Liberty will vote whether or not to keep Walker School open for next year. Should they vote to keep the schools open, then the specific costs associated with those schools will be borne by the respective towns and not be part of the general budget that will be presented in May 2025 for a vote in June 2025. If both schools close, Mt View Elementary will receive those children and add one extra classroom teacher at each grade level, bringing the number to three classrooms per grade, along with a preK classroom that is already housed at MVE. Brooks and Liberty will have first refusal for the return of the buildings to their respective towns. On another note, many of us have enjoyed the beautiful music of the Chamber Singers under the direction of David Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson passed away in September with a Memorial Service held for him at which over 100 students present came forth and sang his beautifully written piece of music "Time." He touched the lives of so many and I continue to celebrate the accomplishments and talents of the students of RSU 3 under our dedicated staff.

- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein

Freedom solid waste continues to be shipped to a landfill. It is hoped that Hampden Waste Facility will reopen in 2025. The Hampden facility goal is to extract materials from waste to be processed and converted into renewable natural gas. The facility has had a history of false starts, let's hope that Innovative Resource Recovery, the new operator, has more success. In the meantime the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center continues to offer a full spectrum of recycling materials. The center takes paper, plastics, batteries, TVs, computers, freon appliances, mixed electronic waste, metals and textiles. There is no additional charge for any of these materials. If you are interested in recycling and the responsible management of our waste, please consider volunteering as a representative on the UARRC board. We only have one representative currently. We are allowed an alternate who can attend the monthly meeting and serve on committees.

Thanks,

Phil Bloomstein

UARRC Board and Solid Waste Representative

- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

Community Groups:

- Freedom Community Historical Society: The recent auction was a success and the funds will be used in the restoration of Keen Hall.

Community News:

- Please complete the Town of Freedom, Comprehensive Planning Survey: you can find a link on the town website, a paper copy at the town office or you can use the link on the attached flyer.

Select Board Updates:

- *Selectmen meetings are now at 6:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Select Board workshops are at 7:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Meetings and workshops are open to the public.*
- *Follow Freedom Live on Facebook! We go live with all our Select Board, Budget Committee, and Planning Board meetings.*
- *Contessa Mancini was hired as the new Town Treasurer, effective September 9th. Contessa is extremely experienced in TRIO and comes with years of experience as a municipal treasurer. We are capitalizing on her experience and expertise by having her begin a forensic style deep dive into the most questionable areas of our last audit. She will begin by looking into the misplaced \$62,000 that was reported in our Solid Waste Capital Reserve account. This year's audit revealed we have no such account. She will also be working on our cemetery accounts, tracking prior donations and dividends, and reporting those figures in the proper accounts.*
- *Ryan has joined the Unity Ambulance Community Planning Steering Committee. Surrounding Municipalities are working together to provide reliable services for residents.*
- *A final extension for our Commercial Solar Array moratorium was approved at a Public Hearing in October. A Public Hearing will be held for the Commercial Solar Array Ordinance on December 2nd, followed by a referendum vote in January.*
- *Public Works completed the planned work on the Raven Road and the Townhouse Road. Montville requested road repair on the Freedom portion of the Goosepecker Ridge Road, a requirement for an agreement between the two towns, allowing Montville to plow that portion of the road. Public Works completed that in October. Over the next few weeks, they will be doing work on Rollins Road, repairing damage due to prior ditching in front of the cemetery on Mitchell Road and installing a*

culvert, and some ditching on Greeley Road. Preparing for Winter, several turn arounds have been repaired, a final grading of dirt roads completed, the sand shed is full, and the plow trucks have been serviced and ready for snow!

- *Freedom residents showed up in force at this year's election...77% of registered voters exercised their civil duty, right, and privilege to vote!*

Town Clerk Updates: Cindy Abbott clerk@freedomme.org



Town of Freedom
71 Pleasant Street
Freedom, ME 04941

Phone: (207) 382-6177
Fax: (207) 382-3040

Hours:
Monday: 9am - 6pm
Tues./Weds./Thurs.: 9am - 3pm
First Saturday of the month: 9am - noon