

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 3-17-2025
Approved 4-7-25

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Brian Murphy, Steve Bennett, Meredith Coffin (via Zoom), Heather Omand, Nathan McCann, Kyla Windbloom

Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395
Passcode: TownMeet

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - The Select Board went into executive session at 6:00 pm for 1MRSA 405 (6) E Legal Consultation. They came out of executive session at 6:47 no decisions were made.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to approve the minutes from 2-17-2025 with the stated amendments and place them on record, Ryan Willette seconded the motion and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Laura Greeley read a formal resignation letter from Jim Waterman regarding the E911 addressing. In this resignation he suggested that this position be combined with the Code Enforcement Officer, position. This would consolidate the responsibility to one individual.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to accept the resignation of Jim Waterman as our addressing officer effective April 1, 2025, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Jim Waterman shared the pictures of the renovated kitchen at the Fire House.
 - The Emergency Operation Plan was submitted by Jim Waterman to the Select Board Members. He requested that they review and sign this.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to sign the 2025 emergency plan as submitted, with updated signatures, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Jim Waterman mentioned the Sandy Pond Dam Emergency operations plan. The signature page needs to be updated as well as the flow chart. That does not expire until April and Jim Waterman is working on it.
 - Heather Donahue asked if The Lost Kitchen provided the town with their Dam report.
 - Jim Waterman provided Sarah Ayotte's name and contact information, she is from Maine Emergency Management Agency, and is the Dam Coordinator.
 - First Wildland fire this past weekend, less than 5 acres were affected.

5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
 - Loren continues to work on the MMA materials.
 - Drill press has been taken care of.
 - Older paperwork has been reviewed.
 - The old lap top was brought to the town office.
 - Some road issues are being addressed.
 - Maintenance on the wings is ongoing.
 - Ryan would like to set up interviews for the trash assistant at the next workshop.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to interview the 2 applicants for the trash assistant position, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Ryan Willette continues to look for a tank for the fire department.
6. Treasurer's Report:
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the payroll warrant in the amount of \$10,015.69, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the A/P warrant in the amount of \$9143.71, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Mailing going out regarding: upcoming elections and meetings.
 - Town reports can be picked up as of next Monday morning.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to sign the Select Board report for the 2024 town report, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to abate the property on Map 4 Lot 09 in the amount of \$372.50, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
8. Citizens Issues:
 - Boat landing: Cindy Abbott received a complaint from a gentleman regarding others using the boat landing and people partying. She asked about increased signage.
 - Steve Bennett spoke about a footbridge with railings with the bridge being installed by the state. Discussion ensued about the bridge.
 - Steve Bennett mentioned that he met with a man from Winter Harbor regarding the cannery lot. This gentleman mentioned using it for overflow parking. Concern was expressed regarding the citizens request about what that land would be used for.
9. Review Correspondence:
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to sign the 2025 Spirit of America award, Heather Donahue seconded the motion, and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion for Steve Bennett to read the Spirit of America Award at the Annual Town Meeting this year.
 - Laura Greeley presented the letters from the IRS and it is believed that this is what is currently being addressed. The 941 tax filing was not signed. RH Smith should have signed it.
 - A revised county bill was received and it will now be about \$10,000 less.
 - Underwriting at MMA has requested an inspection, that is upcoming in risk control for boiler pressure.

- Ryan Willette recommends making it a cold start boiler.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to make it into a cold start boiler, Ryan Willette seconded it and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to have the furnace inspected at Public Works, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
- Gary Hazard from Thorndike came in last Monday morning and shared information from the School Budget meeting. There is a surplus of 4.9 million dollars from the school budget. On the 24th of March in the evening there will be a school budget meeting.
 - Brian Murphy asked if anyone had followed up on information about this surplus.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- Animal Control Officer: Meg Anderson
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Finalizing the Trailer Park Ordinance
 - Subdivision information
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined.
 - Ryan Willette and Prentice Grassi are going to work on the back boards for the basketball court.
 - 5th Monday the committee will meet to discuss Easter baskets, 4:30pm (31st of March)
 - Appeals Board: Michael Smith
 - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Laura Greeley said that she felt that they worked well this year with lots of dialog.
 - CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
 - Budget Committee:
- Old Business:
- New Business:
 - Laura Greeley will meet with Cindy to finalize all the articles and complete the charts. They will leave this meeting open.
 - Heather Donahue thanked Laura Greeley for all the work she has done with the Town Report.

- Ryan Willette spoke with Ron about the Public Works department and the plan to fix what MMA had mentioned.
11. Date of Next Meeting: Monday April 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
 12. Next Select Board Workshop Monday February 24, 2024 at 7:30 am
 13. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to keep this meeting open until Wednesday morning at 7:30am 3/19/2025, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.

Meeting recording Information

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNgPNMTG2SAR7knH9r4pVpm-dsXG34_MAjap-y-BGXgGLkH-xCK2zmURicLDHqG6.UHGOuJ6gzd20U3Pu

Passcode: XeR2^*P4

3-19-2025

Ryan Willette made a motion to sign and approve the town meeting warrant, seconded by Heather Donahue and all approved.

Ryan Willett made a motion to accept Heather Donahue's petition for recall as presented, Laura Greely seconded and Heather abstained.

Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 am, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.