

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 11-18-2024
Approved 12-2-2024

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Heather Donahue, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Brian Murphy, Samantha Turner, Elaine Higgins, Morey Hallett, Joe Freeman, Nathan McCann, Kim Holmes, Steve Holmes, Meredith Coffin, Kyle Price

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:
 - 77% of Freedom's voters came out to vote.
 - Rapid Renewal: training tomorrow at 11am at the Town Office.
 - Freedom CDAC committee is having a meeting on Wednesday at 6pm in the annex to announce the findings from the site work and options. They are looking for resident input.
 - Looking for volunteers for the comprehensive planning committee. It could be a 2-year process.
 - Meredith Coffin expressed interest in being part of that committee.
 - It is anticipated that it may meet twice per month.
 - Heather Donahue reviewed the responses to the survey to date.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Heather Donahue made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Burn Permits: semi drought condition, most days in moderate (burning only after 5pm) There are currently 2 active permits.
 - Kitchen cabinets are being installed and the floor is done.
 - They may have time to clean some chimneys.
 - Over \$7000 was collected during the fair.
 - A safety plug has been purchased for electric vehicles.
 - A laptop was purchased to be used in the trucks. He would like to donate these to the town, which would then make it the town's responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance.
 - Jim asked about the water testing results on Sandy Pond. Heather Donahue responded that the results are not in yet.
 - 16 Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed this weekend.
 - Samantha Turner asked about the human remains that were found on Smithton Road. Jim stated that he has not heard anything.
 - 555 Belfast Road, there have been no updates.

- Laura Greeley asked if there was a fine on Greeley Road, Jim Waterman responded no. A large shipment of batteries were delivered there and are being stored in the shed.
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
- Finished the sand pile.
 - Greased snow plows.
 - Finished grading the Roads.
 - Repaired all turn arounds as needed.
 - Cellar Kitchen Lane sign.
 - Quotes on wings.
 - 2 loads of salt.
 - Repairing the trash truck.
 - Are going to grade Rollins Road.
 - Monday at 6am Ryan Willette will be meeting with the Public Works Department to work on the budget for 2025.
 - The wing needed some repairs: They will be purchasing a new/used wing for \$2000. They are 4500 new. The one down there will be repaired so we have a backup.
 - Today they worked on the Mitchell Road around the Penney Cemetery. They filled in the empty site. Ryan Willette donated his time.
6. Treasurer's Report:
- Payroll Warrant = \$8301.27
 - AP Warrant= \$36674.97
 - Camden National Balance: \$809134.64
 - Received checks from:
 - Revenue Sharing \$3000 GA donation was received from CPV
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$8301.27, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the AP Warrant= \$36,674.97, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Mailing went out today. One mistake on time. Hearing is at 6:30 and the Select Board Meeting will be at 5pm.
 - Training tomorrow so the office is closed from 11 - noon
 - Thanked everyone who helped with the election: Renee, Katie, Willa, Sean and Laura all donated their time.
 - Cash receipts report was presented.
 - Excise report was presented as well.
 - Tax reports were presented
 - 22 taxes: Automatic foreclosure is February 10th. There are 17 outstanding bills.
 - 23 taxes: were reviewed
 - 24 taxes were reviewed
 - Prepayments: 14 accounts that have been prepaid for 2025
8. Citizens Issues:
- Brian Murphy asked about commercial marijuana policies.

9. Review Correspondence:

- Post Office: There was a question about a leak being fixed. We had documentation that it had been fixed.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Heather Donahue made a motion that they go into executive session with the CEO for 1 MRSA 405 (6) C and 1 MRSA 405 (6) H, [Laura Greeley](#) seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue stated that no votes were taken or will be taken. They returned to the Select Board Meeting at 6:58 pm.
 - Escalating Greeley Road situation:
 - The post office certified that the letter was sent and received regarding the notification of the fines. The fines are currently \$100 / day for the trailer and \$100 for the lack of septic and eviction of his tenants.
 - Cindy Abbott will ask Atty. Kelly what the process is to remove the trailer from the property.
 - Samantha Turner shared the events that occurred over the weekend. The police were called on Sunday due to threats. The neighbors were reportedly told by the police to ignore the individual.
 - Laura Greeley asked about all the junk on the property and the junk he put on the neighbor's property. [Cindy Abbott](#) responded that there is a junk yard law and [Laura Greeley](#) asked her to speak to Atty. Kelly regarding that law. The individual was given 30 days to remove the junk and it did not occur.
 - Meredith Coffin suggested we contact the county commissioner to see what our options are.
 - Laura Greeley asked that [Cindy Abbott](#) start the process of notification of fines for the junk that has not been removed. The town has offered to help but the land owner has not been cooperative. It was suggested that the bill be sent weekly for the fines.
 - Laura Greeley will call the commissioner tomorrow.
- 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: Peter Nerber

11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Dec 10, 2024 is the next meeting

- Trailer Park ordinances are being reviewed.
- Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined.
 - 6pm next Monday, discussing Holiday events.
 - Need members for the recreation committee
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - They are trying to get matching funds for the stone. The least expensive one is \$1600. It was suggested that they create a news story and reach out to the local news stations.
 - They are looking for individuals to join this committee.
 - Cummins Cemetery: He asked if anyone was going to contact the Tirones regarding taking care of that cemetery. Who will be taking care of this cemetery? There has to be access to the cemetery and the town has to maintain access, due to veterans being buried there.
- Budget Committee: [Laura Greeley](#)
- CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
 - Meeting Wednesday at 6pm
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
- Budget Committee:
 - December 6th meeting

12. Old Business:

- Commercial Solar Ordinance Hearing on December 2nd.
- Beaver Ridge Road Hearings and testimony
 - 1/28/25 at 6pm A-L
 - 2/4/25 at 6pm M-Z

13. New Business:

- Town Meeting: is usually the 2nd Friday and Saturday of March and the Select Board are looking to change it to the last Friday and Saturday of March.
- Laura Greeley made a motion to change the annual town meeting to the last Friday and Saturday in March from this point forward, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
- Cindy Abbott suggested that they reach out for the audit now so it will be ready for the town meeting.
- Thank you to [Lissa Widoff](#) for sending the minutes for the CDAD meetings which are now posted. A note will be sent by the Select Board Secretary to the committee chairs regarding the calendar and meetings.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday December 2, 2024 at 7:55 pm.

15. Next Select Board Workshop Monday November 25, 2024 at 7:30 am

16. Adjourn: Heather Donahue made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm, Larua Greeley seconded and all approved.