

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 6/15/2026

Approved 6-22-2026

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

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulier, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Elaine Higgins, Joe Freeman, Roy Mishou (via zoom), Bryan Murphy, Tim Biggs, Patrick Terry, Maryann Bennett, Clara Alvarez, Beth Powell, Steve Holmes

Public Hearing for the Building Ordinance Proposed Changes

Cindy Abbott called the Hearing to order at 6:01 pm.

Lissa Widoff nominated Cindy Abbot to moderate the hearing for the ordinance, Kory Boulier seconded and all agreed.

Lissa Widoff clarified the changes proposed for the ordinance.

Patrick Terry was concerned with giving the select board permission to openly change the fees. Lissa clarified that the fees had already been changed at a previous meeting and that the only change would be that the updated ordinance would refer to the current fees. Lissa Widoff further clarified that the select board would still have to vote to change fees, if they needed to be revised in the future.

Laura Greeley clarified that the changes are consistent with other town ordinances. The current fees on the ordinance are 20 years old as they were updated last in 2006.

Lissa Widoff read through the proposed fees.

Elaine Higgins gave an example of someone being charged for a deck and asked for clarification.

Cindy Abbott clarified that Freedom is under the 4000 resident threshold therefore inspections are not required. Plumbing inspections are completed by the plumbing inspector but electrical inspections are completed by a master electrician.

Patrick Terry stated that he is in favor of local control.

Joe Freeman also stated that he is in favor of local control.

Tim Biggs asked if the state was going to impose their standards on Freedom.

Lissa Widoff explained that there are many things that are already required. Our code enforcement officer would make the inspections.

Laura Greeley reviewed the purpose of this hearing and attempted to reiterate what the vote was for.

Kory Boulier reiterated that this change is just to update the ordinance and there is no other intent. It evens the playing field for all residents.

Brian Murphy asked about the red highlighting and red lines in the proposal and Lissa Widoff clarified.

Tim Biggs asked about the fees and where they would be posted.

Lissa Widoff reviewed the fees for a third time.

Clara Alvarez asked for clarification.

Elaine Higgins made a motion to adjourn, Jim Waterman seconded and all approved.

Select Board Meeting

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - **Kory Boulier made a motion to accept the minutes from the 6-8-2026 meeting as amended and place them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Last Wednesday hose testing was conducted in Thorndike. 2 of our hoses did not pass.
 - AED: Laura Greeley will ask Cindy Abbott about the status of the police report.

- Jim Waterman asked about the issue he asked about with regard to a check received. Laura Greeley will check with Contessa.
 - Wayne Woodbury passed on Sunday at 9:30 am due to injuries received during the Robbins Mill Fire.
 - Jacob Spaulding, another firefighter injured in the Robbins Mill Fire came home today.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
- A/P Warrant: \$15725.11
 - Payroll warrant: \$6220.31
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for the week 6-15-2026 of in the amount of \$15725.11, Kory Boulier seconded and all agreed.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the payroll warrant for the week of 6-15-2026 in the amount of \$6220.31, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
 - Camden National Balance: \$404,686.34
 - Checks Received:
 - \$884.17 Postal Service
 - \$75.92 Black Hills Corp
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
- Grading is beginning again.
 - He will be reaching out to meet with the Selectmen to discuss various public work issues.
 - Joe Freeman asked what is happening with #6?
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Cash receipts were presented from January to today's date.
 - Exsize tax reports were presented from January to date.
 - 2022 taxes: 1 account in foreclosure, which requires select board attention.
 - Cindy Abbott explained that the person could be given 60-90 days to pay all of their back taxes and if they are not paid within that time frame then the property would go up for auction.
 - 2023 \$477.17 remains due
 - 2024 Taxes: 23 accounts for a total of \$33088.46 outstanding.
 - 2025 Taxes: 57 bills are due for a total of \$55,484.08 outstanding
 - 2025 elections: 40 hours volunteered at \$14.65 per hour that is a savings of \$566 this year due to volunteers.
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve and sign the contract for Shredding on site for one bin for \$49 for each time the bin is emptied, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**

- Mackenzie will be covering on Mon/Tues 6/22-23 from 9-4
 - The police report has not yet been filed.
 - Trio: The bill was paid and we will have a credit, due to the back up system. Sketch cost should be covered by the refund. The contract was signed and will be signed and sent back to Trio by Cindy Abbott.
7. Correspondence:
- Atty Kelly has not yet responded to the notice of claim that was received.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Pleasant Street: Beth asked about the repairs to Pleasant Street. The selectmen reported that this will be occurring this summer.
 - Elaine Higgins asked about the mill rate and tax bills. The Select board are working on these and are on track.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - One property follow-up with trash and the property appears vacant. She will attempt to have the trash cleaned up this week.
 - Cindy Abbott will follow up with Atty Kelly regarding Belfast Road.
 - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
 - Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
 - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
 - General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier
 - No new requests this week.
 - Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Joe Freeman reported that Knox's contract is coming up and he asked if we were interested in pursuing that. Laura Greeley was concerned that taking on more may not be a good idea since we have had difficulty maintaining our own equipment. Lissa Widoff suggested having Knox put us on their list of people to contact when they put it to bid.
 - Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
 - Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Will be meeting twice a month and the Selectboard appreciates it.
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - First Tuesday of the month at 3pm
 - Vendors: 4 tables have been reserved
 - Home decorating contest
 - Bottle Drive ongoing

- Appeals Board: (chair to be determined).
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
- CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
- Comp Plan Committee:
 - Tasks were assigned to different groups to be brought back to the group. June 17, 2026 next meeting.
 - Laura Greeley requested additional information on a waiver for growth area with the state.
- Historical Society:
 - Meeting 6-16-2026 at 6:30pm

11. Old Business:

- CPR training Tuesday 6/16/2026 and Stop the Bleed 5:30 pm
- Landing issues, last Tuesday night there was loud late-night partying.
- Fire Hydrant: a group met to discuss repair and maintenance agreement for the Hydrant. Ryan Willette had sketched out where the pipe would go. All members agreed to the repair plan and the money was in the fire department budget. A ten-year agreement was proposed and The Lost Kitchen will take care of the intake pipe maintenance and with the installation of the correct equipment there should not be further issues. If there was an issue with the correct pipes it would be the fire department's responsibility. There would be signage regarding how to use the hydrant accurately to prevent any further issues. Lissa Widoff provided the other selectmen with a draft of the proposal.
 - Jim Waterman requested that the information on the first bullet be changed to reflect that the hydrant is owned by the fire department not the Lost Kitchen.
 - Joe Freeman asked who would be responsible for the maintenance costs through public works. It was stated that maintenance was budgeted through the fire department budget.
- Grant: Nature Based Design:
 - **Lissa Widoff asked for a go ahead by the select board to seek the Nature based Design grant, Kory Boulrier seconded and all approved.**
- Digitization of Property Maps: scanning of the maps. Kory Boulrier is looking into this and pricing it.
- Pre purchase of stamps prior to the price increase. They will pass for now.

- Assessments: Jim was going to update Trio and clean it up and change the land schedule. He would send out notices; he will not have time to do all of these things prior to taxes being committed.
- Laura Greeley called the auditor because she needed to know the balances in specific accounts prior to committing taxes. She asked if the audit would be received soon. The auditor said she was waiting on information.
- Laura Greeley will send the email to the other selectmen. Laura Greeley will make sure Contessa sends the information to the accountant. They will need the amounts from public works and the undesignated fund balance. There is not enough time to give all residents notice to make the changes this year.
- Data Center Moratorium: Laura Greeley provided a draft to the other Selectmen of a proposal for the moratorium, and asked that they review it and make any requested changes.
- State Bill: she sent the requested information and then they will come back with the final bill.
- Thursday at 2pm there is an ARPA zoom meeting that Laura Greeley will attend.

12. New Business:

- The select board was asked about a covenant on a deed regarding trees. Lissa Widoff will look further into the matter.
- July 13 was proposed as the date to meet with Atty Kelly and the surveyor. Laura Greeley will confirm this date with Atty Kelly then let Cindy know for the purpose of announcing the meeting.
- **Kory Boulter moved to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 406 (6) A Personnel matters at 7:56pm, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 8:48pm, and some decisions were made.
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to sign a rental agreement to pay Ryan's repair service \$75 per day when using his skid steer, Kory Boulter seconded and all agreed.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to increase the pay rate of the solid waste assistant to \$22 per hour, Kory Boulter seconded and all approved.**

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday June 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Lissa Widoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, Kory Boulter seconded the motion and all approved.**

Recording Information:

Shareable link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GISD_VsggP_rFqJF8WTPJIPaoi2Hj2lykuN5ULWBgPeKraQIOIq7iKOyqHBp4pB.KQ8sYwteTFTROICs

Passcode: xL9t02f@