

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 12/15/2025

Approved 12-22-2025

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Brian Murphy, Bob Kanzler, Joe Freeman, Cindy Abbot, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Dylan (via zoom), Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Stan Taylor, Karen Taylor, Beth Powell, Patrick Terry, Kyle Price (via zoom)

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for Legal Consultation for 1 MSRA 405 (6) E at 6:04pm, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 7:22pm and no final decision was made. They will be continuing the process and there was no decision made. Rene Ouellet explained that there is no single statute that defines the issues in this case. This is a complicated law case with lots of feelings about the outcome. It would not be possible to negotiate a settlement with so many opinions being expressed at the same time. A settlement is better than risking going to court because the outcome is so unsure. Laura Greeley explained further. She stated that the select board has some authority over roads and the executive administration of legal decisions. Lissa Widoff further clarified that they are in negotiations toward a settlement. They don't want to send mixed messages. The selectboard is always open to hearing from the townspeople.
 - Patrick Terry brought up abandoned roads and this process.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes as presented and place them on record, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**

4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
5. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
 - A/P warrant: \$ 12,664.69
 - Payroll warrant: \$11,476.28
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the payroll warrant for 12/15/2025 in the amount of \$11,476.28, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the AP warrant for the week of 12/15/2025 in the amount of \$12,664.69, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - There was further discussion regarding the accounting bill from RH Smith. It was determined that it was an itemized bill.
 - There was an additional question about the Porta Potty bill from Pine Tree Waste. Cindy Abbott will look into how the contract was determined this year as it is usually from April until October.
 - Camden National Municipal Checking Balance: \$877,335.82
 - Checks Received: none listed
 - Contessa and Vernice have scheduled a zoom call to complete Contessa's training.
6. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
 - A report was provided to the select board.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Nominations papers will be available by Wednesday for a 3-year position and the town clerk, tax collector and excise tax collector.
 - Trash Sticker report is monthly.
 - Supplements and Abatements:
 - **Lissa Widdoff made a motion to apply a tax supplement account #193 for \$272.75, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
8. Correspondence:
9. Citizens Issues:
 - Patrick Terry asked why the Beaver Ridge decision should not be brought to a town meeting. The selectmen have been discouraged from doing this as it would impede the momentum of the progress they have made.
10. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - 27 Main Street property: Atty Bill Kelly will be setting up a January zoom meeting to meet with all parties involved. It has been tentatively scheduled for January 14th at 2pm
 - 22 North Palermo Rd package was sent out to the owner and was emailed as well.

- A citizen reported that a trailer on (Albion Road) South Freedom Road, has people living in the trailer.
- Greeley Road: Laura Greeley asked if the letter was sent regarding the Greeley Road. Rene Ouellet asked if there was anything in writing from the CEO regarding their findings. Lissa Widoff researched and found that there is a natural waterflow that has been blocked. Lissa Widoff suggested that they discuss what the CEO's assessment is of the situation. Laura Greeley asked that Cindy Abbott document her findings and what she has reported.
- 67 Belfast Road: Lissa Widoff presented handouts from local realtors. This property was given to the town so we are not obligated to go through the process as with tax acquired properties.
 - 3 estimates of value. All recognized the limitations of the property.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved that they use Camden Real Estate with a commission rate up to 6% to represent the property on 67 Belfast Road, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - No GA applications during the previous week.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - They are meeting on the 30th regarding a home occupation decision.
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Freedom Follies and Winter Fest are in the works and the Historical Society would like to work with the rec committee.
 - They will decorate for the holiday party on Friday.
 - Donations have come in for toys. They do not have early childhood toys.
 - Mr and Mrs Santa arrive at 10 am in the fire truck
 - Julie will come at 9am to help set up.
 - Fishing Derby? What weekend is the free fishing weekend?
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment

- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Wednesday in January 7th at 6pm
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
- Comp Plan Committee:
 - Bob Kanzler has resigned from the Committee but would be willing to be part of public input sessions. His primary reason is that he is less inclined towards planning.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to accept Bob Kanzler's resignation with regrets, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
 - The committee will meet this week. They are hoping to elect a chair, asst chair and a secretary.

11. Old Business:

- Levi Temple Monument: one party has asked about how to contribute and will be following up. With this there will still be an offset of \$600. The 3 Selectmen offered to match each other's donation.
- Reval RFP: the final draft is available for the select persons and they will review it and discuss it next week.
- Board Openings: Appeals Board and Rec Committee
- Cleaning Person:
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to post the job opening for a part time cleaner for the town office and annex at \$20 per hour to be posted for 7 days, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Unity Ambulance: Unity will sign on the 15th but the contribution will be retroactive to the date all others signed on.
- Copier Contract:
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the new contract for the copier, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion and all approved. (amended/ motion withdrawn)**
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the proposed new copier contract and request a final contract, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Direct Communications: Lissa Widoff will research this further.
- Trio: will be reviewed next week.
- Public Access Officer: this person is generally appointed. A discussion ensued regarding whose responsibility it is. The general consensus was that it is the Town Clerks responsibility.

- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to appoint the Town Clerk as the public access officer, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- County Budget Committee Meeting: Laura Greeley reviewed the outcome of that meeting. It was recorded. There has not been an audit since 2021. Rene Ouellet mentioned that approximately 50 people spoke. He felt it was done respectfully and earnestly.

12. New Business:

- A meeting occurred last Friday with Lissa Widoff, Laura Greeley and citizens that were enrolled in tree growth/Open Space. It was a mutual learning process. Most people are not current with their current use land classification requirements sometimes referred to as land subsidies. They now have it in writing from a trusted source that farm land can get tree growth for 4 specific reasons. They will establish a clear plan moving forward. They will contact all parties and let them know if they are in compliance and what they will need to do to enroll or gain compliance.
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for confidential records 1 MRSA 405 (6) F at 9:43 pm, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 9:54 pm, no decision was made.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday December 22, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 9:56 pm., Lissa Widoff Seconded, and all approved.**

Recording Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/iwcV1vqLCaHkXB440HEGxiFURg159Q1TPodZ2uecMfqWzVvEVBDrvRdpMQbrvxSuXiySPqVdSTMlJWyoY>

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