Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 10-26-2026

Approved 11-2-2026

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulier, Beth Owen-Mishou, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Jim Waterman, Bob Kanzler, Brian Murphy, Roy Mishou (via zoom), Jon Thornhill, Elaine Higgins, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Lisa Rioux, Erica Gower, Kyle Price, Dylan Turner (via zoom), Phil Bloomstein, Elenore Hess

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Lissa Widoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
    - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to accept the minutes for the week of 10-19-2026 as amended and place them on record, Kory Boulier seconded and both approved.**
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
    - Alarm system: The issue is with the dialer. Jim Waterman asked what they would be doing to fix it. Jim suggested that they contact Consolidated regarding the dialer. Lissa will check with Cindy to determine if she has contacted Consolidated.
    - The Fire Department are attending a class this evening.
    - Lissa Widoff reported that she had found some bylaws for the FD and asked if they had been updated. Jim confirmed that they have been updated and he will supply a copy.
    - Post Office: postal delivery is lacking. Jim Waterman suggested calling Lee and she can pull your mail and you can pick it up at the Post Office. The number is: 1-877-854-3471.
    - November 9th at 4pm is the resilience meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
    - AP Warrant week of 10-26-26: $11969.27
    - Warrant 47 checks#: 15501, 15502, in the amount of $2508.96

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the AP warrant for the week of 10/26/26 in the amount of $11969.27, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve the replacement checks, warrant 27, in the amount of $2508.96, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
- Camden National Municipal account: $782606.14

5. Public Works: Jon Thornhill
    - Truck 6 will hopefully go for a sticker tomorrow.
    - Paving is supposed to be next Monday.
    - They ran into ledge on Main Street so the curb on the Bangs and Knight side of the road will need to be longer. The culvert was replaced.
    - He completed a tire inventory and got rid of them. He will have the rims reconditioned.
    - Tire chains have been ordered.
    - He will fill the pot hole and will remove the log on the veteran court.
    - Lissa Widoff provided Jon with the agreement with Freedom and Montville regarding the plowing of Goosepecker Ridge Road.
    - Culverts: he has found some that will need to be replaced and will build this into the new budget.
    - Lissa Widoff mentioned that Wed Nov 18 at 6pm will be the budget meeting to discuss the upcoming Public Works Budget. Lissa Widoff will get him a copy of last year's budget. She will also get him a copy of the Plowing contracts.
    - Jon Thornhill mentioned that a licensed electrician will need to fix the outlet in the annex. Jon will reach out to see if any licensed electrician is willing to do this pro bono. He will put them in touch with Lissa.
    - The culvert is failing on the Pleasant Street bridge and the state will need to come and check that. Peter Coughlin will be contacted by Lissa Widoff regarding the bridge on Pleasant Street.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott (not present)
7. Correspondence:
    - A letter from the Select Board was sent regarding taxes and an explanation of any changes.
    - There was a letter from Kyle Price and his family sent to Freedom residents.
    - Letter from the Hadyniaks was sent to Freedom residents.
        - Lissa Widoff was concerned about the way the information was presented.

        - Kory will contact Leigh regarding the mailings not being received by the residents.
8. Citizens Issues:
9. Town Officials Reports
    - Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
    - Assessors Agent: (position not yet filled)
    - Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
    - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
    - General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier
        - No new requests this week.
        - Kory Boulier has completed his training.
        - Kyle Price asked what the balance was in the fuel assistance account.
    - Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
    - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (present)
        - Phil Bloomstein reported that our solid waste is going to the Hamden facility called Waste Tub. 50% of our garbage will be converted to natural gas. The town will need to make a decision if Unity Recycling will still be needed by the town if indeed Hamden is doing recycling. He suggested we wait and see how Hamden goes prior to ending our affiliation with Unity Recycling. He would like to visit the Hamden facility and asked if any of the Select Board members would like to come with him. He will need to be sworn in again as Solid Waste, Broadband and Recycling Center. Lissa Widoff will look into that. Lissa Widoff feels it is appropriate to wait and see how things work out with Waste Tub. Elaine Higgins requested an email with the information he shared.
            - Meredith Coffin thanked Phil for the information and stated that she would like to visit the facility. She asked if someone was going to put a list together of the things that Hamden will not take versus Unity Area Recycling.
    - Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
    - Town Boards & Committee Reports:
        - Planning Board: Christopher Spaulding (chairperson, not present)
            - Meeting tomorrow night.
        - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
            - Meeting this week
            - Halloween Programs went very well and was well attended.
        - Appeals Board: Samantha Turner, chair (not present)
            - November 19th

- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
  - November 18th
- CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)
- Comp Plan Committee:
  - Making progress on chapters.
  - Nov 13th at 5:30-7:30 Housing
  - Nov 19th 5:30-7:30 future land use
- Historical Society:

11. Old Business:
    - Thanksgiving Baskets November 6th.
    - Christmas Baskets December 2nd.
12. New Business:
    - RSU 3 Update by Lisa Rioux and Erica Gower:
      - Lisa Rioux opened the discussion by introducing Erica Gower, assistant superintendent and spoke about why they are joining town meetings.
        - Lissa Widoff asked about the towns that are considering pulling out and how that would impact all of the other towns.
        - 2 towns are pursuing withdrawal, Waldo and Liberty. The hope is they will not withdraw. It would be the following November (2027) that it would go to referendum. It would be 2028 before it would actually occur. Liberty has approximately 50 students. It might lead to a few small cuts. The contributions that Liberty makes would need to be absorbed by the other towns.
        - Lissa Widoff asked what the biggest cost is for the budget, Lisa Rioux responded, salaries and benefits. There would be cost savings in transportation.
        - Elaine Higgins asked if there was any option to acquire more towns?
        - Phil Bloomstein stated that Liberty has considered leaving many times, but this time they appear to be more serious.
        - Lissa Widoff mentioned the Comprehensive Planning, and asked to what degree are they tracking demographics and how that is factored into the future planning for the district. Lisa Rioux reported that school enrollment is dropping across the state. Lisa reported that she is looking for patterns and trends. She is looking into homeschooling and why these families are choosing to homeschool to assess if

anything can be done. Lisa Rioux will send the Select Board numbers regarding the number of students from Freedom and their grade levels.
        - Bob Kanzler asked if Christian schools have seen an increase in enrollment? Lisa Rioux stated that they have been looking at the Charter Schools. She is curious about that choice. In part it looks like the schedule offered by other schools appears to be a factor. Lisa mentioned that there are more options these days. She suggested that COVID has changed a lot of people's opinions about homeschooling. Homeschooling is highest in the lower grades.
        - Lisa Rioux mentioned the bell-to-bell cell phone ban. The students have had a positive response but do not like that they cannot bring their back packs to all of their classes.
    - Lissa Widoff read the updated values for assessing:
        - **Kory Boulier made a motion to approve the updated and current Board of Assessors policy, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 2, 2026, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
14. Adjourn: **Kory Boulier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm, Lissa Widoff seconded the motion and all approved.**

Recording Information:
Shareable link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GlNFcC0rikO5kPOO_4mRJ8nJhwAwQsAfHbvjlVfjONCX8UqNzFL-FHGN4VSH7AKm.AefrzS_PXsi7xcrA
Passcode: y3DAJ=Wg