

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 8-4-2025
Approved 8-18-2025

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Lissa Widdoff, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Brian Murphy, Joe Freeman, Kyle Price (via zoom), Dylan (via zoom), Samantha (via zoom)

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:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Lissa Widdoff made a motion to approve the minutes from 7-21-2025 as amended and place them on record, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - The payroll information is now on the budget spreadsheet. They are waiting for Vernice to add a section for wages and salaries.
 - The Select Board reviewed the budget spreadsheet.
 - Laura Greeley will meet with Contessa and review the areas of concern and ask for clarification. This will be ready for the other Select Board Members at the next board meeting on 8-18-2025.
 - Laura Greeley is looking into getting trained in Trio.
 - **Lissa Widdoff made a motion to pay the payroll warrant for the week of 7-31-2025 in the amount of \$9,026.88, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widdoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for the week of 7-31-2025, in the amount of \$665.00, Rene Ouellet seconded and all agreed.**
 - **Rene Ouellet moved that we approve the adjustment in the amount of \$684 made to the cost of liens filled on 7-31-2025, Lissa Widdoff seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widdoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for 8-4-25 in the amount of \$13,823.42, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion and all approved.**
 - Camden Municipal Checking: \$270,701.34
 - Received Checks from:
 - State of Maine Travis Price \$3,160.85
 - USPS Post Office Rent \$884.17
6. Public Works:

- No report presented
 - Laura Greeley will try to go up to the Rollins Road to speak with the resident regarding the turn around. Laura Greeley will call the woman first.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Reports were presented:
 - Year to date receipts were provided.
 - There are 32 bills outstanding.
 - She received a notice from the post office about account 367 that there is no forwarding address.
 - For account 584 it is the correct address. The letter was sent before the 30-day process.
 - Excise Tax report was presented.
 - Cliff Lewin has offered to help finish the garden in front of the town office. Cindy will provide Rene with Cliff's contact information.
 - Laura Greeley asked what happens next with those 2 accounts. Cindy Abbott said we have done our due diligence with everything prior to foreclosure. These could be foreclosed on in January.
 - Laura Greeley asked for an update on the Jason Young property. Carmen, the engineer, is coming on September 13th. Lissa Widoff asked what our obligation is for contacting the owner. She asked what that process is for providing the owner for adequate notice. Cindy Abbott stated that this is a follow up. Carmen is going back as a follow-up to make sure that the changes have been made. Lissa Widoff asked Cindy to write up her follow up that occurred with Ryan and this document is to be added to the records. She asked Cindy Abbott to provide Jason Young with adequate notice regarding Carmen's inspection.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Brian Murphy asked about Unity Ambulance. Laura Greeley reported that we are waiting on other towns.
9. Review Correspondence:
- MMA annual election forms were received and they asked that our Select Board vote.
 - **Lissa Widoff moved that they approve the slate as presented from the MMA executive committee, Laura Greeley seconded the motion and Rene Ouellet abstained.**
10. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Laura Greeley asked about the property on Bryant Road and what the current status is? Cindy reported that she and Patty did a site visit in July. The trash is cleaned up. There is still potential for a junk yard as there are vehicles on the property. Laura Greeley asked what the outcome was. Cindy stated that they are going to follow up in 30 days.
 - Laura Greeley asked about the property on the Greeley Road. Trash remains and there are 2 trailers still remaining. The owner stated that the person taking the trailer was taking the junk

on it away. Cindy Abbott asked him to have the trailer removed by September. Rene Ouellet suggested that deadlines be set and kept. Laura Greeley stated that the town has provided many options for this resident. Cindy Abbott said that she will take a ride out to see if what he said he was going to do has occurred. He is not receiving mail so any communication needs to be put on his door. She suggested that this be discussed with the GA officer.

- The prior board has given a one time option to have their trash removed without cost.
- Rene Ouellet offered to go with Cindy to this site.
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Joe Freeman reported that there is a bit of trash beside the roads. He asked how the town wants to handle this. As the code enforcement officer Cindy Abbott can send a letter. Joe Freeman will start to collect addresses to provide to Cindy.
- Animal Control Officer:
 - Laura Greeley asked if anyone has heard from our new ACO. Laura Greeley will reach out to Johnna Hatt.
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - They had their training this past week.
 - They have a scheduled meeting next week on 8-12-2025.
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - August 23, 2025 Parade, line up at 9, kick off at 10 and then the fire department will do their chicken BBQ at 11 at the fire station.
 - They are looking for a theme.
 - Appeals Board: Michael Smith.
 - Laura Greeley reached out to Ben Feeney regarding the conference call with Atty. Kelly. As of Thursday, it was handed off to Ben Feeney. He is going to reach out to Samantha to see if the date and time would work
 - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
 - Rene Ouellet went to the book reading and there was a good turnout.
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Rene Ouellet asked when this committee will start to meet. Laura Greeley stated the end of the summer.
 - The town meeting will be the 2nd weekend in March.
 - CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff

- Making progress with the developer for the master plan for the property.
 - The state is including Freedom in their site visits next week. Lissa Widoff will put together information on what will occur on this visit.
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
 - They are going to start to look at the employee handbook draft at the next workshop. They want to look at the first 2 sections.
 - Laura Greeley asked if the policy committee needs to exist.
 - Rene Ouellet said it may be helpful to take some of the work off of the select board.
 - Lissa Widoff suggested we keep the committee in place and revisit it in the future.
 - Budget Committee:
- 11. Old Business:
 - Boat Landing/ Swimming Area Policy: it was reviewed and edited. There were 2 additions, tags on boat for identification, preventing use of the landing over 1500 pounds gross weight. Joe Freeman asked who would be enforcing the rules. It was suggested that we have new signage. Rene Ouellet offered to look at the signage. Lissa Widoff will create a warning notice.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved that they approved the boat landing / swimming area policy as revised, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to schedule the E911 Addressing Ordinance Hearing to 6 pm with Select Board Meeting to follow on August 18th, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - They will sign a warrant for the special town meeting for the addressing ordinance 9-2-2025 on 8/18/2025.
 - Fisher Property: Lissa Widoff asked if the property was ready to be sold. This will be added to the next workshop agenda on 8-11-2025.
 - Penney Road: Laura Greeley attended the Select Board meeting in Montville. They will fix the end of Penny Road this year. They will contact us as of next year of any repairs that need to be made on that portion of Penny Road. Laura Greeley will bring a letter of agreement to their next Select Board Meeting. Lissa Widoff created a letter to be presented by Laura Greeley Tuesday evening at the Montville Meeting.
 - Post Office: The post office will be power washed by Public Works.
 - There is a hole in the parking lot, that is state responsibility.
 - Law Suit update: MMA appointed a lawyer to represent the town of Freedom concerning the last suit filled. Atty. Mark Franco from Drummond /Woodson.
 - Mitchell Road: The guard rails need to be done. Laura Greeley will speak with Lauren about this.

- Rene Ouellet asked if our Public Works Department could complete the other tasks on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. What are Loren's priority projects?

12. New Business:

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to hire Amanda Jamison up to \$120 to update the Home Page of the website, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Paid Time Off: Rene Ouellet reported that there is a request to have paid time off no more than 40 hours. The town's policy does not say anything about paying off the time. Our policy says that that time can be banked up to 40 hours and those hours can be banked for the next year. Rene Ouellet reviewed state law and state employment practices. Both the law and the employment commission push it back to town policy and there is no state law that guides this. How does a part-time employee take time off? Employees that accrue more than 40 hours will have those hours paid off at the end of the year.
- Lissa Widoff reviewed the proposed solid waste policy. She will make a "clean copy" to be approved at the next meeting.
- Mobile Home Park Draft Ordinance: Hearing 9-29-2025 6pm, Lissa Widoff will check with the Planning Board to assure that this date will work.
- Update on organization of Committees and Boards. There are papers missing and they need to be updated. Laura Greeley suggested that when peoples' terms are up that we can post the positions and that anyone can apply for the position. Rene Ouellet will meet with Cindy Abbott to update the book. They will review this in their next workshop.
- Adhoc Committees: Rene Ouellet indicated that Lynn Hadyniak as the on the Adhoc Policy Committee.
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to appoint Lynn Hadyniak to the Adhoc Policy Committee, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- Comprehensive Committee update
 - There are approximately a dozen persons who have shown interest in being on that committee. Lissa Widoff will try to have a conversation with all interested. Lissa W feels that the Select Board should be involved in the beginnings of these meetings. Lissa Widoff would be willing to facilitate the first few meetings.
 - Lissa would like another week to follow up with interested parties.
 - Ad hoc road committee: For next workshop, They will discuss this at their next full meeting in September. Laura Greeley found information on MMA about a Road Inventory. Laura Greeley will summarize this information and discuss it at an upcoming workshop in a month.

- Concerns about the end of Pleasant Street and what can be done. Lissa Widoff suggested that we have DOT come out and assess this. Laura will reach out to Loren about the posting for trucks.
 - Lissa Widoff asked about the sheriff's department doing dive byes.
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday August 18th, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
 14. Next Select Board Workshop, August 11, 2025
 15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**

Zoom Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/M-WRbODwq_AKbCoCk5sjkrRb5FoSvKwR-yxnOn3XJX85LKRMl1W4fuYkJvPrtqdM.vlonwtv58IVrcywk

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