

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 10-10-2023
Approved 10-16-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley (via zoom), Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak, Mike Smith, Willa Smith, Meredith Coffin, Jim Waterman, Dylan Turner, Joe Freeman, Heather Donahue, Nathan McCann, Ben Feeney, Anne Marie Adamson (via zoom),

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and place them on file, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - EMA power outage amendments and addendums are not yet available for publication
 - Thorndike's Day parade is Saturday. If anyone is interested, they can show up at 9:30 am.
 - The fire house will be power washed.
4. Public Works Director Report:
 - Ryan Willette reported
 - Ryan Willette got a call from Unity asking to do their trash. He has also been contacted by a selectman in Troy about grading roads. Troy was also curious about us doing their trash.
 - We received a paid invoice from Unity for grading their roads.
 - Mitchell Road gravel is down.
 - They are going to cut the edges down on the shoulder, they are going to grade the road one more time.
 - Going back to Acorn Rd. by Sandy Pond Stream, the water runs down the hill. They will put crushed stone on the road to build it up. They are going to put a crown on the road.
 - They are on Deer Hill Road and anticipate finishing tomorrow.
 - With the heavy rain there were no washouts.
 - Farm pond on Ayer Ridge Road washed out the culvert.
 - Sand pile if full
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Payroll Warrant = \$8075.32 (1), \$3288.30 (2), A/P Warrant = \$159,491.43
 - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
 - Camden National Balance \$ 138,823.72
 - Charitable donations will be on the October 17, 2023 warrant.

- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$8075.32 (1), \$3288.30 (2), A/P Warrant = \$159,491.43, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Laura Greeley asked what roads have been completed to date. Ryan reviewed what has been done to date. She asked where the money was taken from for the work that was completed. Cindy directed her to the 3rd page of the financial report. Ryan reported that it can be taken out of the miscellaneous account.
 - Laura asked about whether the gravel was part of the summer or winter roads account.
 - Steve Bennett stated that we are under budget for Public Works at this time.
 - Steve Bennett asked Cindy Abbott to have the balance on the post office fund for the next meeting.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that we extend the summer road works through the month of October and winter roads begin November 1, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- The pre notices for the 21 taxes will go out tomorrow.
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
- Tyler Hadyniak thanked Steve for being timely in getting the responses from Atty. Kelly on behalf of the planning board.
 - Tyler Hadyniak announced that he will be hosting a class on Veterans concerns.
 - Meredith Coffin stated that she and Elaine Higgins had taken a ride around on the town roads and she expressed concern about the Hustis Brook Bridge. Ryan Willette responded that he is working with the state to get input on the most effective way to repair the bridge. Meredith asked about how the town would pay for this.
 - Steve Bennett mentioned the USDA town development grants as a possible funding source.
8. Review Correspondence
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9. Town Officials Reports Jackie Robbins
- Health Official:
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - Plumbing Inspector:
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Liz Sullivan made a request on behalf of the town of Knox regarding garbage collection. This would be for the town of Knox due to Sullivan's not being able to meet their obligations due to low staffing. This would be for 8 months. Ryan Willette expressed concern about being a third party. Ryan Willette suggested \$1200 as a daily charge. Ryan Willette stated that their helper may not be insured on our truck. Elaine Higgins asked about the tipping fees.

- Laura Greeley stated that their contract with Knox is for \$45,000 with Sullivan.
 - Steve Bennett will call Liz Sullivan back.
 - Ryan Willette discussed Freedom garbage bags, 12,500 bags that would say FSW and are 30 gallons. They would cost .35 per bag.
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
- Planning Board: Meeting this evening
 - Recreational Committee:
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Elaine Higgins reported that the signs for the Freedom Market are still up. She asked if we could add an inside the church if there was inclement weather.
 - Appeals Board: Joint meeting with the select board next Thursday 19th at 6pm
 - Charter Committee:
 - Historical Society:
 - Auction October 23-27 online
 - Cemetery Committee
 - Budget Committee: Oct 18 at 6pm, next meeting
 - CDAC Committee: Met last Wednesday evening.
 - Cindy will have to add a line for the CDAC grant money
 - Broadband Committee:
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee:
 - Discussion was held regarding the Fire Department being included in the wording of the drug and alcohol policy.
11. Old Business
- Heather Donahue has agreed to head an ad hoc High Impact Power Line committee, Samantha Turner and Craig Gombos will also be members of the committee. Heather suggested that there be 5 members
 - Laura Greeley asked Heather if she has spoken with John Shaw. He is looking to join the Freedom group.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to form a High Impact Power Line Commission committee with Heather Donahue as the chairperson, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
12. New Business
- The town Atty. responded to a set of questions regarding the moratorium. Steve Bennett distributed the atty's responses. 10 towns have passed moratoriums. The attorney's responses have been posted on the town website.
 - Appointing an ad hoc committee for High Intensity Transmission lines. Heather Donahue has volunteered to be the chairperson.
 - Steve Bennett provided a handout of bills that have been created by various towns and state representatives.
 - Rally this weekend at the Capital regarding preserving land.
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, 2023. 6pm

14. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.