

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 9-25-2023
Approved 10-2-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Samantha Turner, Rene Ouellet, Tyler Hadyniak, Brian Murphy, Jim Waterman, Bob Kanzler, Dylan Turner, Doug Van Horn, Kevin Greeley, Jacob Brugger, Mike Smith, Willa Dibner, Kyle Price, Eleanor MacMacon, Rei (v9a zoom) Meredith Coffin, Katie McDonald, Anne Marie Adamson (via zoom), Billie (via zoom) Sharon Beckman (via zoom),

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

Special Town Meeting:

Cindy Abbot started the Meeting at 6pm.

Warrant for a Special Town Meeting: (see warrant)

Chose a moderator: Steve Bennett made a nomination that Rene Ouelett act as a moderator, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

Cindy Abbot swore Rene Ouelett in as the moderator.

Rene Ouelett stated that there was one issue to be considered, an amendment to the appeals board ordinance. He invited anyone to speak but asked that the comments be kept concise and that we reduce repetition.

Meredith Coffin made a motion to move article 2, Elaine Higgins seconded.

Steve Bennett offered copies of the ordinance to those in attendance. He also offered a copy of the amendment as well as the town charter. He directed people to the appeals board ordinance amendment on page one. He referred people to page 2 and the conflict-of-interest statement. He proceeded to review article 2 as stated in the materials he handed out. He also reviewed the history leading up to the amendment. He referenced page 15, roman numeral 2.

Rene Outlet opened it up to questions:

Ellie MacMackon asked if Steve Bennett's presentation was a filibuster. She referred to the MMA handbook regarding the membership numbers, liability regarding a fine, and a 90-day waiting period.

Elaine Higgins stated that she feels 5 people are enough. She is concerned with a quorum of 4 because it could be a tie. She feels it affects the appeals board's productivity. With 5 people the quorum would be 3.

Samantha Turner asked if we were voting tonight to appeal the language or to add more members. Rene Ouelett stated that we are doing both and that there are 3 changes being proposed. She also asked for clarification regarding a fine.

Rene Ouelett stated that all comments need to come to the moderator's chair. Eleanor read the statement regarding the statement from the board of appeals handbook from MMA.

Jacob Brugger stated that there was a member of the appeals board was concerned about the number of people. Ryan Willette stated that indeed an appeals board member did raise a concern about a 2-week period and not being able to come to a conclusion with only 5 members.

Meredith Coffin stated that after the member requested an increased number of members, she was interested in hearing what the appeals chair felt about that. She asked how he felt about increased numbers.

Eleanor MacMackon stated that she changed her mind about the number of people after reading the MMA handbook.

Mike Smith asked why there could not be more time allowed if needed.

Steve Bennett stated that some issue could not be put off.

Mike Smith stated that there are extenuating circumstances.

Steve Bennett asked Tyler Hadyniak about the 2-week time frame.

Tyler Hadyniak stated that the two weeks was in response to the weekly Select Board Meetings.

Elaine Higgins asked if the appeals board could ask for an extension if needed.

Rene Ouelett read the language in the amendment.

Laura Greeley asked why the members of this committee are so opposed to having 2 more of their fellow citizens on the board.

Mike Smith stated that he has been on the appeals board for 30 years. He is concerned with 7 because with a quorum of 4 it could be difficult to come to a conclusion.

Ryan Willette feels like having 7 can add more opinions and more ideas and more arguments can bring up more ideas.

Mike Smith stated that he has gone around town and asked citizens opinions about situations.

Samantha Turner asked if they meet continuously until they have a meeting.

Steve Bennette asked if the 2 weeks could be amended. Amending ordinances is easier than amending the charter.

Doug Van Horn asked about the three things in red and if they are going to be voted on individually or one at a time.

Rene Ouelett stated that we are voting on all three changes.

Meredith Coffin asked if all the changes were going to supersede the other

statements.

Rene Ouelett responded that everything would remain unless it was slashed out. Tyler Hadyniak stated that originally the changes were supposed to be in replacement of what was previously there.

It was brought to everyone's attention that things should have been crossed out.

Mike Smith asked if it is part of the appeals board's responsibility to seek the input of the town's people.

Mike Turner made a motion that we vote on each of the changes individually.

Rene Ouelett stated that we cannot change the ordinance.

Tyler Hadyniak asked if we changed the wording of the motion could we then vote on each individually.

Rene Ouelett stated that we have not warranted it to vote on each individually.

Elaine Hlggins asked if we could then vote it down and re-warrant it.

Meredith Coffin asked for clarification regarding what was written and what was corrected.

Ryan Willette asked Mike Smith as president of the appeals board what the process was in that they review an issue and how numbers affect that.

Jim Waterman made a motion that we cease the discussion and that we move to the vote.

Rene Ouelett asked for a vote. 15 were in favor and the motion carried.

Article 2: Voting on the changes as stated.

11 No and 4 yes Votes: article 2 failed.

Article 3 motion to adjourn passed.

Select Board Meeting:

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Steve Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman

- The fire department is doing chimney cleanings.
 - Truck 3 is up and running after battery replacements
 - Did the toll booth and brought in over \$4000.
4. Public Works Director Report:
- Ryan Willette reported
 - Summer road work has begun
 - Raven Road today, peeling tar, took out rocks and stumps,
 - We were able to get contractor price on materials.
 - 2-3 spots on the Mitchell Road are being worked on.
 - Will be doing sand in two weeks, at \$10 per yard with him hauling.
 - We have the roller for \$4200 for a month.
 - We are going to need some of the savings for the bigger rock on the Mitchell Rd.
 - The have a new Milwaukee grease gun.
 - All dirt roads are going to be graded.
 - There will be overtime with the good weather. Ryan suggested that in lieu of overtime they would be willing to take PTO.
 - Steve Bennett asked Ron Smith to come to a meeting to discuss this but he was not available. He will be coming and the select board will discuss this with him when he is available.
 - Steve pointed out that this has been done in the private world but they are not clear of whether it is legal for a town. Ryan suggested that there should be roll over
 - Dylan Turner asked if there would be a maximum of time that could be banked.
 - Laura Greeley asked when we had switched to 4, 10-hour days. Ryan said that was years ago. Ryan Willette stated that it is now 5, 8-hour days.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- \$6712.29 payroll warrant, A/P warrant + \$11,793.43
 - Steve Bennett stated that the A/P warrant was higher due to paying off the tan note
 - Laura Greeley made a motion to pay the payroll warrant in the amount of \$6712.29, A/P warrant in the amount of \$11,793.43, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - March checking book balance= \$208,995.80
 - Camden National Balance= 247,115.49
 - School payment scheduled for October 2, 2023
 - County taxes will be on the October 9th warrant
 - The payment to the Historical Society did not make this warrant.
 - 10-1-2023 Public works winter road budget needs to be submitted
 - Kristy will be out on Thursday for training and Cindy will be at the window.

- Saturday is the Rabies Clinic.
- 6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - Tyler Hadyniak offered congratulations to Laura Greeley. He mentioned that he was impressed with the number of people who voted. There is an open position on the budget committee and Tyler mentioned that he is interested in that position.
 - He offered at a previous meeting that we would be willing to collate the LSPower surveys to be presented on Saturday. He will need them by tomorrow.
 - Bob Kanzler asked what the easiest way is to reach the Animal Control Officer. Ryan Willette has had the best results texting him. An updated cell number was provided.
 - Ryan Willette stated that he would like to contact Tyler's brother to ask why our zoom is not working.
- 8. Review Correspondence
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- 9. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official:
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - Laura Greeley requested that Eleanor attend a meeting to update the town on what is happening with the superintendent search.
 - Elaine Higgins reported that she has had a conversation with Eleanor Hess at the school board meetings at the time of our meetings.
 - Samantha Turner asked that Eleanor Hess provide a written update if she cannot attend.
 - Laura Greeley asked if there would be a possibility that the select board meetings be on a Tuesday once a month to allow a select board member to attend the school board meeting.
 - Meredith Coffin suggested that the select board meet biweekly as it had in the past.
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - Ryan Willette attended GA training.
 - He is working on one application.
 - Plumbing Inspector:
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- 10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board:
 - Steve Bennett is requesting that the planning board work on a high-transmission ordinance.
 - He brought up an ad hoc committee to coordinate with other towns regarding high power transmission lines. He is asking that anyone interested contact him.

- Recreational Committee:
 - The farmer's market was sparse this week. Only one vendor showed up.
 - They still need keys for the snack shack
 - They need more rec volunteers!
 - Samantha Turner asked if The Lost Kitchen would work with us cooperatively.
 - With the Harvest Festival and the Lost Kitchen both having events of the same day, has any thought gone to parking?
- Appeals Board:
- Charter Committee:
- Historical Society:
- Cemetery Committee
- Budget Committee: Oct 18 at 6pm, next meeting
- CDAC Committee:
- Broadband Committee:
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: 2 proposed policies are ready for select board review.
 - Steve Bennett suggested a select board workshop with the ad hoc committee and the select board. Tuesday evening 10-3-2023, at 6pm.
 - Rene Ouelette offered to send a shared google doc so that all could edit. Steve Bennett requested his be sent in a word document.

11. Old Business

- Ryan Willette asked about the cellar holes behind public work, can anything be done with these? They have fill available that could be used to fill the holes. Steve will contact the committee and ask about filling the holes.
 - Bob Kanzler asked about using the cement slab as a helicopter landing pad.

12. New Business

- Congratulations to Laura Greeley as a new select person.
- Reminder of a special town meeting this Saturday at 3pm in the church basement regarding the moratorium.
 - Hearing at 3pm, vote and Baked Bean supper after.
- Laura Greeley would like our select board meetings to be on Facebook Live.
- Samantha Turner shared some concerns about Facebook. They are concerned about comments.
- Laura Greeley was reviewing article 12, from 2021, from last year regarding junk yards and rats that are being drawn in. Residents are having issues with rats due to their neighbors' junk. How can a resident get help with this? Steve said that we have been trying to clean up dilapidated properties. It is a difficult process. Steve Bennett reported that people should let him know and the health officer can go and inspect the site.

- We need an article at the next town meeting for a fund to accomplish clean ups.
- Cindy Abbot shared that it was brought up in the special town meeting about the rats, from the Skidgell Property. They were told it was on the land owners and that it was their problem. Steve Bennett clarified that her son-in-law helped with the cleanup.
- Laura Greeley clarified that there are residents that are having ongoing problems with rats due to their neighbors. Laura asked what the process is. Steve Bennett said that it starts with the health officer. The health officer does an inspection and reports to the select board.
- Dylan Turner asked about the 3 cases and asked if the people have been notified. Steve Bennett stated that all parties have been notified.
- Laura Greeley asked that the health officer and code enforcement be sent to inspect these properties. She will be calling the code enforcement officer and health officer.
- Samantha Turner asked if there is a way to move forward even after the code enforcement officer and health officer have exhausted their options.
- Bob Kanzler asked if there is a town ordinance about what a legal occupancy is.
- The select board is having a meeting with the Code Enforcement Officer and all of these issues will be brought up.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday October 2, 2023. 6pm

14. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.