

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 2/23/2026
Approved 3-2-2026
Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395
Passcode: TownMeet

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, James Hayes, Jim Waterman, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Kory Boulier, Herman, Kyle Price, Ron Price, Trudy Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins and Dick Bickford (via zoom), Tyler Hadyniak, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Patrick Terry, Tim Turner, Heather Donahue, Matt Grotton, Herman (via zoom)

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes, as amended from 2-17-2026 and put them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
2. Announcements:
 - Rene Ouellet announced that the Select Board are not going to go over individual committee and board reports due to the storm.
 - Laura Greeley announced that the audit starts tomorrow and will last for 3 days.
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Jim Waterman asked the Select Board to sign the Mutual Aid agreement with local towns for fire protection and assistance, this was completed at the meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
 - A/P warrant: \$13406.42
 - Payroll warrant: \$5306.22
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$5306.22, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve the A/P warrant for 2-23-2026 in the amount of \$ 13406.42, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Camden National: \$579501.69
5. Public Works: (pending)

6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott (not present)
7. Correspondence:
 - KVCOG: regional code enforcement training, Lissa Widoff will attend a session on a new regional code enforcement program.
 - Email: Laura Greeley was concerned about the wording in an email they had received and felt it was unfair to the other two selectmen regarding their voting opposite of Laura Greeley.
 - Kyle Price: sent an email with an hour-long presentation with information that he feels is vital to the hearing on Saturday. Laura Greeley mentioned what we are talking about the contents of the Consent Decree on Saturday. Rene Ouellet thanked him for the information that he presented.
8. Citizens Issues:
 - Heather Donahue mentioned the upcoming Hearing on LD 2174.
 - Kyle Price asked that the pictures that he presented be added to the minutes. He reviewed the 4 properties and feels that he has located the 4-rod road.
 - Patrick Terry: added that the selectmen in 1823 petitioned the county commissioners to reroute the original road.
 - Laura Greeley stated that there is a lot of information and that we are not taking depositions at this point.
 - Heather Donahue asked, that with the Consent Decree what is there to still adjudicate? Heather Donahue asked what all the extra information in the Consent Decree is. Rene Ouellet stated that it is an agreement not a legal process.
 - Patrick Terry asked about Beaver Hill Plantation, and read from a document. He asked who were the members of Beaver Hill Plantation LLC, Steve Bennett, Jason Wade and Jeff Keating.
 - Steve Bennett: Steve Bennett gave them each a document with photos. A document was created by many abutters. Lissa Widoff clarified the purpose of the Grant mentioned.
 - Patrick Terry asked about the snowmobile crossing and whether it is the 1.5-mile easement or crossing at right angles. Rene Ouellet attempted to clarify. It was suggested that it be brought up in the hearing.
 - Heather Donahue asked if the abutters are now stating that there has always been an easement. Kyle Price clarified the letter that Steve Bennett read.
 - Laura Greeley asked if the water was always an issue or was it the result of the damage the 4-wheelers created?

- Patrick Terry: Stated that many Maine towns were forward thinking regarding protecting land. He suggested holding the vote til March 3rd as it would be 70 years since the original vote.
- Steve Bennett discussed the easement roads and that the abutter owns to the center of the road and the town has an easement. He discussed the vehicles that were not available in 1956 and the damage that current recreational vehicles can cause on land.
- Patrick Terry spoke on the 1956 article and it not being vague.
- Lissa Widoff discussed grants and their purpose and suggested that this information would be great to discuss in comprehensive planning. Not governing by crisis.
- Tim Turner: asked about the restrictions on the Consent Decree, how would this be handicap accessible? Rene Ouellet clarified that it would allow for the town to regulate how the trails are used.
- Heather Donahue spoke about volunteer maintenance of the trail.
- Patrick Terry: asked about disabled veterans using the trails.

9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - No applications in the last 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
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Comp Plan Committee:
 - Historical Society:

11. Old Business:

- Town Warrant:
- Budget:

- Article 12: the total numbers were not accurate.
 - Budget 1-33 mileage and expenses.
- Article 16: has been corrected
- Article for public works capital reserve fund. Rene Ouellet read the proposed warrant. He will make the wording consistent with the way the fire department article is worded.
- Article 30, Lissa Widdoff will write this article.
- Summer Roads and expenses, crushed stone to drainage.
- Garbage truck driver, salary for solid waste in one line.

12. New Business:

- Web site/ Google Group is underway.
- Direct Communications Installation: Monday March 2, 2026
- Trio Web Training: Lissa will discuss this with Cindy and suggested that they wait to start until after the town meeting.
- Applicant for General Maintenance Position: we have received 1 application. Rene will reach out to the applicant and ask if they could meet at 9am on Thursday.
- Hearing on Wednesday at the state capital on LD 2174. It takes away home rule on specified issues.
- Laura Greeley met with Loren at public works before he left.
- County Budget Meeting: Tuesday meeting and vote.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Lissa Widdoff made a motion to continue the Select Board Meeting until Tuesday 2/23/2026, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**

Lissa Widdoff made a motion on 2-26-2026 at 3:05pm to adjourn the meeting.

Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/kAkOc46GHa_wJ2IUonyhzh5FOb002kGW0x4CMsoqeNy36U_I_nUlp5I3cam1Dp9.filFEBoAztCIBMEb

Passcode: 6dUS\$tt7