

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 3/30/2026**  
**Approved 4-13-2026**  
**Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395**  
**Passcode: TownMeet**

**Select Board Meeting**

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulier, Jim Waterman, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Joe Freeman, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Brian Murphy, Kyle Price (via zoom), Bob Kanzler, Matt Groton (via zoom), Dylan Turner (via zoom)

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to go into executive session for legal consultation for 1 MRSA4056A, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - They came out of executive session at 6:49pm and no decisions were made.
  - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the minutes from 3-23-2026, as amended and put them on record, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
2. Announcements:
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
  - Jim Waterman asked if Laura Greeley had reached Haskells regarding the fuel oil spill. She left them a message. Haskells' needs to clean up the area as it is a hazmat issue. She has received no call back.
  - Tuesday, a week ago, there was an exercise and he attended. They practiced with the radios.
  - Grass Fires: there was one this evening. He provided a reminder to everyone that it is very dry and it is the season for grass fires.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
  - Next fall we need to make sure that the concession stand and town house power gets shut off.
  - A/P Warrant: \$4270.47
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$4270.47 for the week of 3/30/2026, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**

- Camden National Balance: \$540,857.54
  - Lissa Widoff asked about the numbers in the current budget. Laura Greeley stated that those were not the accurate numbers. She also said she was waiting for the new Trio program to be operational. Laura Greeley has asked for a copy of the audit for at least the Capital Reserve budget. Lissa Widoff asked for a list of withdrawals from the Capital Reserve accounts versus what we have budgeted for. Is there a way in the accounting system that allows us to look at what is withdrawn. Laura Greeley clarified how that is done.
5. Public Works: (pending)
- Elaine Higgins presented the select board with a letter which they read and responded to.
    - Lissa Widoff asked what the intent of the letter was. Elaine Higgins clarified that it was part of the article she was writing for the newspaper. She stated that the figures she listed for the salary for the public works director were a suggestion and she wanted to inform them before it was published.
  - Laura Greeley stated that are proposing to hire Ryan Willette to come in as a supervisor for public works. He would be working 10 hours per week under the supervision of the select board. He will receive a \$1200 monthly stipend. That is equal to what the previous director was being paid. The select board have prepared a list of tasks and a job description to represent this position.
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to sign a letter of agreement offering Ryan Willette to work with the Town of Freedom as the Interim Public Works Director for at least the next 2 weeks, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - Joe Freeman asked for clarification about Ryan Willette's role. He also asked if Public Works needs to be supervised by all three select board members. Lissa Widoff clarified why this decision was made and what Ryan Willette's role will be. Laura Greeley responded to Joe Freeman's concerns.

1:08:56

6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Trio training: Cindy has completed testing. Laura Greeley needs to complete hers. They will go live Wednesday night and will be live Thursday morning. Cindy Abbott is setting up an account for Kory Boulier. Lissa Widoff asked if Cindy Abbott has removed the others who were on the account who are no longer associated with the town.

- Cindy Abbott submitted an abatement request and asked for clarification. Laura Greeley asked that the individual write an email regarding his concerns. Laura Greeley asked that he complete the abatement paperwork with all of his concerns. (1:31)
7. Correspondence:
- Richard Heppard has offered to look at the phone wiring. Lissa Widoff will review the phone lines with Richard Heppard.
  - Peace Ridge Request. Laura Greeley will complete their abatement.
  - SAM registration is complete.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Bob Kanzler mentioned that he would be working with someone to look for the missing cemetery.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
    - Cindy Abbott met with DEP on Friday about the Smithton Road. She presented the Select Board with their response. The individual has been informed that there would be requests once the report from DEP was received. The town needs to decide if they have additional requests to add to the DEP letter. Lissa Widoff asked for clarification regarding Public Works requirements. Before Cindy Abbott sends out the letter she would like the Select Board to review the DEP letter and any other things they would like to add to the letter.
      - Lissa Widoff mentioned that it would be helpful to have a booklet available for property owners to have to clarify what could occur on their property.
    - Matt Grotton clarified what he was going to do with the driveway/property. Lissa Widoff suggested that he provide a sketch of what he is going to do. Matt Grotton agreed to do that.
    - DEP went to another location with Cindy Abbott and Cindy then sent an email to Atty. Kelly about the situation. 1:57:13
  - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
  - Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
  - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
  - General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier
    - The state has updated their forms on their website. In order to get on the current site, they have to sign the form that Kory was presented with. He will work on filling out the forms and get them back to Cindy.
  - Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott

- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
  - Joe Freeman mentioned that they need a new truck. He asked about the funding for that. He asked whose responsibility it is to look for a new truck.
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
  - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
  - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
    - Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens: Laura Greeley will consult with Contessa and determine how she wants to pay that bill.
    - Basketball Hoops: Prentice Grassi is hoping to have a basketball tournament in June. They will need \$2,552 to cover the costs for the needed repairs. If anyone would like to donate it would be appreciated.
    - The dates and times for the rec meeting are going to change and will be posted.
    - Great turn out for the Easter Egg Hunt and Kory Boulier took pictures. Many individuals donated toys, food and other items.
    - An elderly gentleman wants to deliver meals on Thursdays to individuals in our community who are not able to easily leave their homes. Please contact the town office if you know of someone who would benefit from this service.
  - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
  - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
  - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
  - CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)
  - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
  - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
  - Comp Plan Committee:
  - Historical Society:

#### 11. Old Business:

- Posting Job Opening at the Technical College for the Public Works Department
- Policy Updates:
  - Lissa Widoff organized the policies into groups.
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion that they sign off on the policies as is, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion that they sign off on the pay the oldest taxes first policy, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
- Board/ Committee Appointments:(2:03:29)
  - The selectboard discussed appointments for various town committees. They appointed Christopher Spaulding to the Planning Board and reappointed Maryann Bennett to continue on the board. For the Budget Committee, they reappointed Kirk Thomas and reappointed Tim Biggs. Rene Ouellette was appointed to the Appeals Board. The selectboard also noted the need to swear in new members and discussed the possibility of involving Matt Groton in the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
    - **Laura Greeley made a motion to appoint Christopher Spaulding for the Planning Board Open position, to expire in 2029, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
    - **Lissa Widoff moved to nominate Maryann Bennett to the planning board to expire in 2029, Kory Boulier seconded. all approved.**
      - Laura Greeley discussed having new members and having younger members being involved. She would like a diverse perspective on the board. Lissa Widoff mentioned that we have lost a lot of members with experience and it would be good to have people to mentor new members.
      - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to have the appointments for Maryann Bennet and Christopher Spaulding 5 years instead of 3 years to match the town ordinance, their terms ending 2031, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - Budget Committee:
      - **Laura Greeley made a motion to reappoint Kirk Thomas to the budget Committee, for a 3 year term, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
      - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to have Tim Biggs serve on the budget committee for a term of 3 years, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - Appeals Board:

- **Lissa Widoff moved to appoint Rene Ouellet to serve on the appeals board for a 3-year term, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff moved to update the appointment of Rene Ouellet's term to 5 years instead of 3 in accordance with the ordinance, Kory Boulier seconded and all agreed.**
- **Lissa Widoff moved to reapprove Dylan Turner and Alex Green as members of the Appeals Board with Dylan Turner's term ending in 2027 and Alex Green's ending in 2028, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff moved that Dylan Turner's term on the appeals board goes until the 2027 at the town meeting, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff made a motion that Alex Green's term goes until 2028 at the town meeting, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
  - Laura Greeley sent notes to Colby regarding our minutes and appointments for Unity Ambulance.

12. New Business:

- **Current Use Assessment:** Letters need to go out and they need to be corrected. They will confirm the 4-1-2026 date for the submission of the tree growth applications. The select board would like to see the applications as they are submitted to the town.
- **Lissa Widoff spoke about the agreement with Montville and the collection of excise tax.** She asked what Freedom wanted to do. Laura Greeley asked Cindy Abbott how many Freedom residents register in Montville.
  - Lissa Widoff will speak with Montville Select People about the agreement.
- **Upcoming Meetings** were discussed.
- **Assessors Visits on Sundays.** They are legal but the town can have a policy that states that they do not occur on Sundays. The current Select Board stated that they would only do an assessment on a Sunday under extenuating circumstances.
- **Lissa Widoff presented a list of Goals for 2026**
  - Establish systems for the smooth functioning of the office and service for residents in as cost-efficient way as possible: look for savings as well as wise investments for the future.

- Improve Public works so it has a financial model for sustainability for the town.
- Update Personnel policies- JDs, benefits, ay scales, accountability.
- Comp Plan
- Property Tax assessments-update all entries and current use assessments.
- Improve Budget process, TRIO and town reporting
- Organize Town Office and Annex spaces so they are useful, safe, clean and organized for staff and community use.
- Depositions from 9-3:30 Last Thursday
- County Budget Meeting: The budget passed 6-1.
- **Lissa Widoff moved to go into executive session for 1 MRSA , confidential records, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
  - **They came out of executive session at 9:38 pm, with no decision made.**

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday April 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: Kory Boulier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm, Lissa Widoff seconded the motion and all approved.

**Recording Information:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/LfzDKSKqD2EEUWySbtsziSJAXkkmnYpb7vXv7p0FN\\_JHqNjfCiTbIRYnE1wj6rRS.lxxmui6U48MsxFor?startTime=1774907988000](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/LfzDKSKqD2EEUWySbtsziSJAXkkmnYpb7vXv7p0FN_JHqNjfCiTbIRYnE1wj6rRS.lxxmui6U48MsxFor?startTime=1774907988000)

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