

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 1/20/2026

Approved 1-26-2026

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Bob Kanzler, Cindy Abbot, Dylan Turner (via zoom), Elaine Higgins, Dick Bickford, Jim Hayes, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Meredith Coffin (via Zoom), Kyle Price,

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes as amended and place them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Budget Meeting: 7 board members will be in attendance at the Budget meeting this Wednesday to discuss the Fire budget.
 - Election of Officers occurred last week at the Fire Department and there will be no change.
 - Emergency Management Director: Lissa Widoff asked if it has to be a Freedom resident. Jim suggested that the select board could reach out to Dale Rolly to get a response to that question. Jim Waterman offered to work with anyone who might be interested. He stated that there is training available. Currently the pay is \$1000 per year with mileage.
5. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
6. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Nomination papers were received today from:
 - Kory Boulier
 - Heather Donahue
 - Matthew Grotton, Jr.
 - Cindy Abbott

- Cindy Abbott suggested they choose a candidate's night. Thursday February 5th as suggested from 6-7:30 pm. Laura Greeley will reach out to Maryann Kenney to moderate.
- Absentee ballots will be available on February 11, 2026.
- The Town Meeting report should be printed by the 14th of February.
- Audit: The short report for the audit will be in the town report if it arrives by the printing date otherwise it will be handed out at the town meeting.
- Dog Licensing, last day in the office is January 29th and online with the state is the 31st.
- Rabies Clinic in the Troy town office 1/28/2026, notice posted on website and Facebook page.
- 2023 taxes: last day is March 5th and automatic foreclosure is March 6th, 2026.
- Cindy Abbott has trainings next week on Tues 28th and will need to close early. Wednesday she will be opening at noon - 3pm.
- The Select Board members will be discussing the requested abatement with Jackie to clarify the details.
- Certificates of occupancy were discussed.
- Laura Greeley asked Cindy Abbott to review a file as the resident stated that they are being taxed for 15 acres, although he owns 5 acres.
- Cindy Abbott will reach out to MMA and the planning board to determine what the outcome of the ruling was regarding subdivisions with the property. At this point the property is part of an illegal subdivision.
- The select board will review the request at their next assessors meeting.

8. Correspondence:

- One applicant for a cleaner.
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to appoint Kim Holmes as the clearing person for the town office and annex, for 1-2 hours per week, and more as needed, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion and all approved.**
- FOAA follow up: Laura Greeley has sent most everything to Alice with the exception of the liability policy. She also sent the same information to Hannah Kaufman. She asked Cindy Abbott to send the Selectmen liability policy tomorrow morning. The charter needs to be included as well as the training, Laura Greeley will look into this.

- Deadline for the joint purchasing agreement with KVCOG. The deadline is the 25th of January.
- The Service Agreement for the Port-O-Potty on the ball field and the boat launch was reviewed. The dates need to be specified and they only need one at the landing. Lissa Widoff asked how they would rebate us for the money since October. Cindy Abbott was asked to look into this.

9. Citizens Issues:

- Stan Taylor asked about the issue across the road from his property, the response was that they are waiting on a DEP response.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Atty Kelly stated that he would reach out to Cindy regarding the property on 137.
 - DEP: Cindy Abbott stated that she has reached out to them on a number of occasions but they have not responded.
 - The illegal vernal pool: she did receive the letter from Richard Bickford. It is not a violation notice. It is in regard to the vernal pool on his property. It talks about another pool but it does not state where that is located. Cindy Abbott has reached out to the author of the report for further clarification. Cindy Abbott went to the site and noted that it was cleaned out, not dug out. She cannot see how the water is flowing onto his property. It may take another visit to check for water flow. Lissa Widoff reminded Cindy Abbott to write up her observations and conclusions. All code enforcement work is done after hours and is not done during Town Clerk hours.
 - Rene Ouellet asked how someone would make contact with the CEO to make arrangements to meet after hours. Cindy Abbott clarified this.
 - Lissa Widoff will follow up with Loren regarding a temporary curb to address another issue.
 - Intersection on Main St, Mill Street and Pleasant St. because this is so close to the stream there may be grants available to fix this issue. Lissa Widoff will look into grant opportunities to address this.
 - 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
 - For the planning boards meeting on February 10th, Beth will set up a zoom meeting so they can just activate it.
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Prentice Grassi has expressed interest in joining the rec committee
 - Julie has also expressed interest
 - Winterfest
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - They need to pick a chair and meet every other month or as necessary. The training needed should also be completed.
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Meeting Thursday
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - Met last week, no action taken
 - They regularly meet the first Wednesday of the month
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Comp Plan Committee:
 - Meeting with the CDAC committee
 - Feb 21, Saturday for a community input session at the grange.
 - Meeting Thursday

11. Old Business:

- Mobile Home Park Ordinance:
 - The application fee has not been set yet.
- Health Official:
 - The job posting needs to occur and then next week they will vote to extend the position until 3/2027. Rene Ouellet will reach out to Cindy Abbott regarding posting the position.
- Town Meeting Warrant: Cindy Abbott suggested that they start to look at last year's warrant and start to modify that. It was suggested they start to do that next week and each review it before that.

- Workshop on 1/26/2026 at 4pm - 6pm, it was later decided that insufficient time was available to give public notice.

12. New Business:

- Special Select Board Meeting: Saturday Feb 14th at 10am for public input to view and comment on the proposed agreement for Beaver Ridge Road. Laura Greeley asked Cindy to reach out to the school to see if there was a room available for this meeting. Atty Kelly will be there to answer questions.
- Historical Society: Will have a presentation on Saturday evening at the Freedom Congregational Church on the history of Sandy Stream, at 6pm. The program will be on the Freedom Historical Society Facebook page live.
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A for personnel matters, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 9:12 pm and they will have a meeting with an employee on Monday the 26th at 7:00pm in executive session.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 9:12 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded, and all approved.**

Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/yQFFnS3Qywh_-pkaVLZlezeABQIy9scrRCZRKETwMY5WKwc6cPf70ZpGgBGjhAXe.IYOmavmF9tKtLtk

Passcode: bV?f5Y+5