

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 11/24/2025
Approved 21/1/2025

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Brian Murphy, Cindy Abbot, Dylan Turner, Billie (via zoom), Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Heather Donahue

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes from 11/17/2025, as written, and place them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - 17 Thanksgiving Day baskets were delivered on Saturday. Jim Waterman will submit his mileage. There were slightly more than last year.
 - Accident this am, Car vs deer on N. Palermo
 - Jim Waterman asked about the capital funds account for the fire department. Laura Greeley has had no update from Vernice.
 - Cameron Blane, direct communications, is the contact person for the fiber optics. Lissa Widoff asked about the current router at the Fire House.
 - Laura Greeley asked if he had any ideas about the EMA director. She will reach out to Jim with a potential candidate.
 - Laura Greeley will speak to Joe regarding trash pick-up on the upcoming Thursday holidays and let Beth know what to put on the website.
5. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
6. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
 - Smithton Road: The work was graded at a slope and there was no risk of water going into the road and a culvert was not necessary. Loren Fitch let the resident know that the town would need 10 feet from the road for the snow removal. Loren also noted that there would need to be rock on the

back of the parking lot, and the reason is was not there is due to the stop work order.

- Loren Fitch will attend the Dec 10th budget meeting.
- No trash pick-up on Thursday. A notice will be placed on the website regarding no trash pick-up this Thursday. The board will confer with Joe Freeman regarding trash pick up on the two upcoming Thursday holidays.

7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott

- FOAA request: an additional request from Hannah, a reporter, was received requesting 10 years of past information regarding how many recall petitions we have had. Laura Greeley will respond and let her know that it will be supplied after the holiday.
- FOAA from Alice DeTorra, Cindy will work on this and Laura will forward what she has. Laura Greeley will supply a copy of Michael Smiths' resignation letter.
- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve an abatement for account # 352 in the amount of \$272.30, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve an abatement for account #301 in the amount of \$235.48, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Lissa Widoff will write up a denial letter for one abatement request and bring it to the next Select Board Meeting.

8. Correspondence:

- Complaint to the Maine Human Rights Commission:
 - A complaint was received and will be reviewed by the Select Board and the town's Atty.

9. Citizens Issues:

- Heather Donahue brought up the property pins on her property having been moved and the person is threatening to kill her dogs. Loren Fitch checked out the property and the driveway of the adjacent property owner. It was the wrong size culvert. Heather Donahue feels an engineer should look at the culvert. Loren Fitch discussed a 15-inch culvert with the individual. Laura Greeley will speak with Loren Fitch regarding the culverts. Cindy Abbott stated that DEP had looked at the area and that it was a gravel pit. Heather Donahue asked what her recourse is for someone removing a survey pin. It was stated that she would need to report it to the police and contact her surveyor. Heather Donahue asked how many driveways someone can have. Lissa Widoff referred to the policy for driveway and the requirements. Loren Fitch will have to approve and or disapprove the driveway based on the applied for permit.

- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Brian Murphy reported that FEMA is requesting more information with regard to the mitigation plan. Brian will attend the next meeting to find out more about what is being requested.
- Heather Donahue: suggested the fire department make an ice rink at the Skidgel Lot.
- County Budget: Hearing coming up. December 8th? Laura Greeley stated that they delve deeper into the budget more than other years. It was a \$5 million dollar increase.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Cindy Abbot has not yet received the report from the Structural Engineer regarding the Young Property.
 - Monday is not a good day for the individual regarding the drainage issue with another property. The individual would like the selectmen to come to her house. Lissa Widoff would prefer to have the meeting at the town office. Rene Ouellet suggested having a meeting with the individuals before the budget committee meeting on December 10th. Rene Ouellet will reach out to the property owners regarding the 10th.
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - An inquiry was made this week but resulted in no application.
 - Due to his being out of town, Contessa will cover while he is away.
- 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
 - They have not decided whether they will be meeting twice a month yet. They are currently up to date.
 - Lissa Widoff asked about the CDRO ordinance and she contacted KVCOG. Grainne Shaw is the contact person at KVCOG.
 - Cindy Abbott asked about illegal subdivisions. She suggested that Tyler Hadyniak reach out to MMA ahead of time about illegal subdivisions. He stated that it would be helpful to have more information so he can be specific when

he meets with them. Cindy Abbott stated that she had sent him a case. He acknowledged that and will contact MMA.

- Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Planning the holiday event: They will meet to plan the event on December 4th at 3pm
- Appeals Board: (vacancy)
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Lissa Widoff will reach out to the individuals regarding the funding for the monument.
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - December 10th
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - The final report for the grant was submitted. The next round of grants has a deadline around May.
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - The Ad Hoc Committee will meet with the select board on December 1, 2025.
- Comp Plan Committee:
 - Week after thanks giving

11. Old Business:

- Communication with the owner of 22 North Palermo Road. The owner will receive a letter and a memo will be attached to the property card and the letter.
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to sign the letter to the owners of 22 North Palermo Road property and also sign a memo to the file regarding the property, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Laura Greeley asked Cindy Abbott to send copies of the information to both men associated with the property.
- Copier Contract: the current copier is 3-4 years old. Two options are available as the contract expires on Jan 1, 2026.
 - Keep this copier at a cost of \$2000 and his company will service it as long as they can get parts.
 - New contract with a new copier, for \$7 less per month and the service contract will also be less.
- Direct Communications: Lissa Widoff has a proposal for cost and she has reached out to Ryan Vines regarding routers and leasing. She has been in contact with Cameron, the representative from Direct Communications.
- Trio: Lissa Widoff has sent them questions.

- 67 Belfast Road: Lissa Widoff has spoken to a third realtor.
- RFP for reevaluation: Rene Ouellet has offered to help Lissa Widoff with the completion of the RFP. They would like to have a draft of an RFP ready for the next meeting.

12. New Business:

- Timeline for Warrant Prep for the town meeting:
 - Developing articles for the warrant. Laura Greeley explained how the process works. If warrant proposals come up, they need to be presented by February 1st.
- Don Hagar: volunteered to put the baskets together, it was kind of him to volunteer but they were all set with coverage.
- Maine Forestry: Laura Greeley requested some tree growth plans.
- Bangor Savings: requested a copy of Laura Greeley's license etc for an account.
- Electrician: is needed for the Post Office to assess the current electrical situation due to flickering lights in the lobby.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday December 1, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**

Recording Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Sqsx3Zrr8u9j96lMGNq7Z2J2gEhKvwbYEX2klOpyim2MrlZWEW38dbTeulrwZD4.kXW3oa-h5S-ZC6lX?startTime=1764025234000>

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