

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 5-1-2023**  
*Approved 5-8-2023*

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Bob Kanzler, Ben Feeney, Joe Freeman, Jasmine Willette, Laura Greeley, Elaine Higgins, Jacob Brugger, Nathan McCann, Tyler Hadyaniak (via zoom), AnneMarie Adamson (via zoom)

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - o Flooding in Palermo was discussed.
  - o Emergency Action Plan for Sandy Pond Dam, expired April 5, 2023, Jim Waterman has made corrections and submitted the change. 2 signatures are needed and Jim Waterman presented the plan. Steve Bennett made a motion that the plan be signed and Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - o Ryan Willette asked about the Unity Ambulance lack of response in Knox and that there had been a death. Steve Bennett would like to schedule a discussion between the selectboard, Jim Waterman and determine if we should continue with Unity Ambulance.
4. Public Works:
  - o Sweeping roads: it appears that most are clean. Returning it tomorrow was suggested and seeing if Eagle Rental would prorate the charges.
  - o Washed out ditches are a priority.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
  - o Payroll Warrant \$8136.99, A/P warrant: \$18,606.84
  - o Checkbook Balance \$208,995.80
  - o 2 checks received: 10,591.10 revenue sharing and \$884.17 post office rent
  - o She has 3 trainings classes upcoming
  - o Cindy now has the zoom invoices and can match them to the visa charges.
  - o Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant \$8136.99, and A/P warrant: \$18,606.84, Steve Bennette seconded and all approved.
  - o Elaine Higgins asked about the ARPA report and if it has been completed yet. Steve Bennett reported that Ron Price was working on it.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott

- She will be sending out notices for non-registration of dogs.
- Steve Bennett asked if Maine State revenue sharing was increasing. Cindy said yes.
- Cindy Abbott reported that since the letters were sent out regarding delinquent taxes, more taxes have been paid.

#### 7. Citizen's Issues and Questions

- Letter from Susan Collins: \$327,000 grant for Keen Hall and they are moving it forward. This is not yet approved but has been moved forward in the process.
- Ron Price and Steve Bennett met with Waste Management out of Noridgwalk regarding the demolition of the Fisher property. This was the same company that cleaned up the Skidgell lot.
  - Laura Greeley asked where the money would come from to clean up the lot. Steve Bennett responded that \$20,000 had been allocated. He suggests putting it out to a broker if that is possible, when the town is ready to sell the property. It is 8/10ths of an acre and is buildable, with a new septic and a well. There will need to be an article in the town meeting to account for the revenue that it will raise when sold.
  - Bob Kanzler asked if when the buildings are demolished, will it still be grandfathered? Steve Bennett said he would check into these concerns prior to demolition.
  - Ryan Willette: mentioned that beavers are eating the trees at the boat launch. He suggested wire wrapping the trees. Ryan Willette also marked where the porta potty should go.

#### 8. Review Correspondence

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#### 9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement Officer: Met last week to discuss the projects around town.
- Health Official
- School Board Director
- General Assistance Officer
- Plumbing Inspector
- Solid Waste Director: Joe Freeman stated that people are overfilling the 55 gallon bags and that there is an issue with the placement of the stickers. Cindy Abbott shared a copy of the mailing that is going out that explains the process very clearly.
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- Planning Board: Tuesday May 9th at Curra's farm.
- Recreational Committee
  - Meeting First Sunday.
  - Got crusher dust for the field.
  - Retaining wall is not looking good. Various options were presented.
  - The playground needs some repair.

- The picnic tables need to be scraped and painted.
- Ware Butler in Madison donated and Paul Flynn said he would match it. Ryan Willette solicited these donations.
- Jasmine Willette asked about fixing up the snack shack, Ryan Willette stated that he is looking for a donation to put in a ceiling this season. Cindy Abbott mentioned that the siding may need some work as well.
- Appeals Board
- Charter Committee: The proposed charter draft and public hearing announcement are posted on the website.
- Historical Society
- Cemetery Committee: Jeff was at the town office today and he is going to start cleaning up the cemeteries. Cindy Abbott has asked that it be completed before Memorial Day.
- Budget Committee: Have not yet received the audit. A meeting will be scheduled when the audit is received.
- CDAC Committee: Meeting in May

#### 10. Old Business

#### 11. New Business

- Ryan made a motion to have a Select Board meeting on Friday at 8 am to discuss the tax maps, summer roads and possibly the Unity Ambulance issues, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett made a motion that “shall the town of Freedom approve the new charter recommended by the charter commission, and that this be placed on the referendum warrant on June 13th”, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- The physical notices need to be placed around town, Tyler Hydiniak will post the additional notices.
- Tyler Hadyniak approved of putting the introductory page in the outgoing mailing this week.
- Steve Bennett made a motion that an article to approve a bulk mailing to everyone in town be enacted, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett made a motion that we approve the letter about the clean up and that it be sent to all residents, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday May 8 , 2023 at 6pm

13. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Steve Bennett seconded all approved.