



Selectboard 2 Freedom &lt;selectboard2@freedomme.org&gt;

## Reject any settlement offer that compromises long-standing public access - Beaver Ridge Rd.

**DJ Hager** <djh04941@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 10:26 AM

To: selectboard1@freedomme.org, selectboard2@freedomme.org, selectboard3@freedomme.org, selectmen@freedomme.org

To the Freedom Select Board,

I am writing regarding the ongoing legal dispute over Beaver Ridge Road and the potential settlement currently under consideration. Although there was no opportunity for public comment following the Select Boards executive session, I felt it was important to share my perspective as someone who has followed this issue closely and with great care but has not given much public input.

I grew up understanding that Beaver Ridge Road (from the Ward Tract all the way to its intersection with Sibley Road) was discontinued to maintenance, not discontinued to public use. Generations of Freedom families acted on that understanding for decades. We heard those stories again during the towns research phase, when residents came forward to describe their long history of traveling this corridor. This obviously isn't a forgotten back road. This corridor is a piece of Freedom's heritage and part of the rhythm of life on and around the ridge.

Some in town may feel this issue does not affect their daily lives. But how the town chooses to move forward reflects the kind of community we want Freedom to be in the years ahead. Our population is slowly growing, and it is important that we plan thoughtfully for outdoor access, recreation, and the overall quality of life for current and future residents. Many neighboring towns have embraced their older roads and corridors as opportunities to create trails, connect neighborhoods, and strengthen community life. Freedom deserves that same forward vision.

I have a deeply vested interest in the long-term health, access, and cohesion in Freedom. My generation, and the generations that follow, will live with the results of the decisions being made with the outcome of this legal action. Public ways like Beaver Ridge Road are more than old corridors. They are potential future assets for recreation, connection, and community. Preserving them ensures that Freedom remains a place where young families want to stay, build their lives, and enjoy the landscape that makes this town so special.

We also need to be honest and clear about how access along this road has dwindled. It did not happen through a town vote, a formal discontinuance of the public easement, or a lack of interest. It has occurred through deliberate pressure, physical barriers, and litigation designed to exhaust and discourage the public. Today, many long-time users of this road (my neighbors and friends) avoid it entirely out of fear of becoming targets of legal action. Even after the court denied the plaintiffs' request for a restraining order on public use, residents today remain uncertain and scared to use a public way they have traveled their entire lives. No one in Freedom should feel that simply walking, riding, or accessing a historic public corridor could expose them to a lawsuit. A community should not lose access to its landscape because people feel intimidated or overwhelmed.

I understand and respect the concern some residents have about the financial impact of this lawsuit. However, walking away now would mean spending almost everything while protecting nothing. Surrendering long-standing public rights at this stage would leave Freedom without the benefit of what this process has sought to defend.

Our Comprehensive Plan specifically urges the town to identify, understand, and make thoughtful decisions about our discontinued and abandoned-to-maintenance roads. Not haphazard decisions made under pressure. These corridors are part of our recreational potential, our identity, and our community health. The decisions made now will shape how future generations experience Freedom's landscape.

The evidence is clear that a public easement exists on Beaver Ridge Road. If the plaintiffs suggest otherwise, then the burden of proof is on them. Where is the survey? Where is their documentation? Despite multiple opportunities, they have not produced meaningful evidence and instead decide to cherry pick through old unofficial letters to muddy the waters and bully the town into concession.

Freedom should not be bullied by exhaustion, pressure, or frustration. I respectfully urge the Select Board to reject any settlement that compromises the board's vote to affirm that this roadway retained an easement and to continue to defend long-standing public access that generations of residents have relied on and understood to be theirs.



I hope the town chooses the path that reflects the best for Freedom. A town that protects its access, strengthens its community life, and plans with pride and intention for the future.

Respectfully,  
DJ Hager  
(Donald Jay Hager)  
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207-218-0529  
[djh04941@gmail.com](mailto:djh04941@gmail.com)

P.S. I am not a party to the cited litigation, although one of the defendants is my father and shares my name. This letter solely reflects my personal views.



Selectboard 2 Freedom &lt;selectboard2@freedomme.org&gt;

## Fwd: Beaver Ridge Road EASEMENT as well as other Roads in Freedom that are discontinued for maintenances but open for public way, NOW AND FOREVER

**Clerk Freedom** <clerk@freedomme.org>

To: selectboard@freedomme.org

Mon, Dec 22, 2025 at 2:56 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carole Carole** <carolebodie@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 17, 2025 at 5:26 PM

Subject: Beaver Ridge Road EASEMENT as well as other Roads in Freedom that are discontinued for maintenances but open for public way, NOW AND FOREVER

To: <clerk@freedomme.org>

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Gwen Littlefield parents.. Roger and Edie Littlefield built a huge Sled on runners, that Pat and Mike (their Belgium Horses) pulled with 20 of us residents with the greatest sleigh rides we ever could have... the Belgiums had sleigh bells on them and through the deep snow we went, up the Beaver Ridge discontinued Town Road in the Snow.. what Community fun we had.

Edie Littlefield and I rode horses, for years, all through ever part of the Beaver Ridge Road, Oak Lane, the Davis Road, Rollins Rd, the Dump Road, now the Mitchell Road.

I've snowmobile, used our ATVs, with my family and plenty other family's in Freedom... Snowmobiles in the winter was awesome, our entire family, the entire Richardson Family (alot of family members), the Turners, Spaulding, the Littlefields...

Snow Mobile Clubs look forward to cleaning, clearing and dragging all the old roads for there members to ride on those back roads way to Sandy Pond and beyond.

Plenty Hunters too used all those discontinued Roads hunting Rabbits, Deer, Coyote, etc..

60-70 years of family recreational activities.. which we all love and still do!

The Town of Freedom to even be thinking for one second to take away the Citizens of Freedom and of Maine because one NEW JERSEY individual who does nothing outdoors doesnt like it!  
Which you seem to be allowing that person to ruin for all the rest of the people.

**WE THE PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE OUR COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND OUR RIGHTS TO USE OUR PUBLIC EASEMENT JUST FOR SOMEONE THAT WANTS TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF HIS OWN PROPERTY.. AND LAND LOCK OTHER OWNERS FROM GETTING TO THEIR PROPERTY..**

It really is to bad that the folks running this town of Freedom have not been here long enough to know what is going on!

Just for the Towns knowledge and information... the culverts right past the Hadyniaks last driveway on discontinued Beaver Ridge Road, were all pushed out of the way by the Hadyniaks plowing they're snow for years and years pushing the snow back as far as they could to BLOCK THE ROAD SO NO ONE COULD USE the discontinued Town Road... they ran over those Culverts again and again to move them so no one could pass.. in doing so, the Hadyniaks flooded they're own properties... and they are trying to now blame someone else..

Thank you for your attention in this very sensitive issue..

Now and Forever can not be changed!

12/22/25, 4:32 PM

Town of Freedom Mail - Fwd: Beaver Ridge Road EASEMENT as well as other Roads in Freedom that are discontinued for maintenances but o...

CAROLE HAGER-BODIE

