

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 4/13/2026**  
*Approved 4-21-2026*  
**Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395**  
**Passcode: TownMeet**

**Select Board Meeting**

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulier, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Tim Biggs, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Joe Freeman, Elaine Higgins, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Matt Groton (via zoom), Dylan Turner (via zoom), Roy Mishou (via zoom)

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Announcements:
  - **Kory Boulier moved to go into executive session for legal and personnel issues for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A and 1 MRSA 405 (6) E, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
    - They returned at 6:27pm and no decisions were made.
  - **Kory Boulier made a motion to approve the minutes from 3-30-2026 and 4-6-2026 as amended and place them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
  - Jim Waterman reviewed the burn permits and reminded people who have permits to stay aware of the burn conditions, which can be found on the state website.
  - Air Packs: battery leakage in one of the packs caused a fire. The cost for a pack is about \$5000, the repair costs approximately \$2400. Due to the battery leakage, it is not covered by warranty. They are still being leased. Jim Waterman asked if the town wanted to submit an insurance claim. Laura Greeley asked if this was something that could be submitted for an insurance claim and the selectboard agreed that a claim could be filed. Jim Waterman can come Wednesday or Thursday to work with Cindy Abbott to file an insurance claim.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
  - Payroll Warrant:
  - A/P Warrant: \$16250 4/6/2026 / \$3702.44 4/13/2026

- **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the AP warrant for 4-6-2026 in the amount of \$16250, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
  - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the AP warrant for 4/13/2026 in the amount of \$3702.44, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
  - Camden National Balance: \$515980
  - Checks Received:
    - USPS \$541.17
    - Town of Knox Fire Protection \$12731
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette (not present)
- Ryan did not present a written update.
  - They did visit Pleasant Street and Lissa Widoff also spoke with individuals regarding paving and culverts. Laura Greeley asked Ryan Willette to attend the Budget Committee meeting on the 22nd with all of the information.
  - Truck #6 is damaged beyond repair; they will need to meet with Ryan Willette to review the mechanics report.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- The AED machine is missing from the office.
  - Cindy Abbot presented reports.
    - Foreclosed Property
    - Past taxes were reviewed
    - Library pass for the Botanical Gardens
      - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve the library pass and for Cindy Abbott to use the credit card in the amount of \$175 to pay for the pass, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to allow Cindy Abbott to use the town credit card for a town mailing for up to \$80, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - The town office will be closed tomorrow for Cindy Abbott to attend a training on elections.
    - Government Windows for TRIO: Cindy Abbott reviewed her findings. She stated that this would be a savings for residents of Freedom.
      - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to transition our credit card payment system to Government Windows, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - The check for the closing on 67 Belfast Raod was received. The select board will need to review the articles from past town meetings to determine where this check needs to be deposited.

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to accept the funds from the proceeds from the sale of 67 Belfast Road in the amount \$23525 and place it in the general fund, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
    - Small Community Grant application: Cindy Abbot completed the application and is only waiting on a W2 that is being sent to her. Laura Greeley asked what account the money would come from until they are reimbursed by the state. The emergency fund was the suggestion.
      - If there are others who would benefit from this grant they can let Cindy know at any time.
      - Lissa Widoff suggested that they have a criteria list for the application.
7. Correspondence:
- Email from Heather Lee, principal property appraiser at Maine Revenue Services. Laura Greeley will come on Thursday to help determine what she needs. Cindy Abbott reported that she generally provides the individual with the book.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Tim Biggs asked if there was going to be any paving work done this summer and the response was yes.
  - Elaine Higgins asked about the deposition meeting with the lawyer. The selectboard clarified that it was a legal proceeding to interrogate the parties so the attorney is able to gather facts and materials.
  - Tim Biggs asked about the price of the survey for Beaver Ridge Road. The original retainer was for \$8000.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
    - Lissa Widoff asked about the request for more information. Has that been acknowledged. Cindy Abbott will acknowledge that they have received the request.
  - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
  - Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
  - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
  - General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier
    - No new requests this 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
  - 4/14/2026 is the next meeting.
  - Training for planning boards and appeals boards are full. They can access prerecorded training sessions. Laura Greeley will speak with the new members of the committees regarding their participation in the training.
- Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
- Appeals Board: pending new appointment
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
  - Steve will be ordering flags
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
- CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)
  - Saturday April 25 2-4 pm for knot weed prevention at the Cannery Lot.
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
- Comp Plan Committee:
  - Monday April 27th at 9am meeting with MDOT mapping which roads are town roads.
- Historical Society:

#### 11. Old Business:

- Montville Registrations: Freedom will no longer do their registrations. The Freedom Select Board let them know that if there was ever an emergency they could reach out to us.
- Midcoast Conservancy: At the moment they are pausing on any Pilot programs with towns. They are trying to develop a policy regarding Pilot programs with towns. They are going to stick with the exemptions as filed. The paperwork will be given to Jackie Robbins.
- Assessor Updates: Lissa Widoff is in the process of redrafting the letters that Jackie had sent. Lissa Widoff suggested that Jackie Robbins attend the next assessors meeting for a short period of time.
  - Tim Biggs asked if people could be fined or dropped from the program. The town was supposed to send out warnings and did not, and have chosen not to fine individuals out of compliance, at this time. The town's plan is to bring everyone current and then if they do not comply, they will be fined.
  - The assessors will be meeting Monday 4/20/2026 from 3-5pm
  - Jim Murphy would like to come on Thursday April 23rd at 5pm, before that he will send a contract and his tax information. It will be

to review the scope of what the town of Freedom wants him to do. This will be an internal discussion and not open to public comment.

- Jim Murphy would like to meet with someone on a Saturday morning. Laura Greeley will reach out to him to determine when they will meet on a Saturday.
- Website Updates:
  - Rapid Renewal is now linked from the town office page.
  - Plan for Updates
    - Amanda Jamison will meet with Beth on Monday 4-20-2026 and an attempt will be made to make changes.
- Grant Updates:
  - DEP Septic Grants: Cindy Abbot is filing this.
  - Maine infrastructure grant is not being applied for at this time.
  - Nature Based design tech assistance would work for the Cannery lot.
  - Community Resilience Partnership-Community Action Grants. These grants cover multiple needs.

#### 12. New Business:

- MMA/Property and Casualty Renewal, email received. Lissa Widoff asked who generally files the paperwork. Cindy Abbott reported that a variety of people have done this. She also mentioned that they have come in the past and helped clarify what is needed in each part of the application. Laura Greeley will look into completing this form.
- Land Schedule on Trio: some information is correct and other information is not correct. Laura Greeley asked who decides the worth of various property. Lissa Widoff suggested reviewing this with Jim Murphy.
- A resident came in today complaining about cannabis grows. Laura Greeley called the state and asked for clarification regarding caregiver cards. The care giver cards can be as plentiful as the home owners want. A town can limit the number of plants a care giver can grow as well as other areas. The state individual provided Laura Greeley with the name of a town that has a very strict ordinance. Laura Greeley will look into this.
- KVCOG regional CEO program: they are willing to come and answer questions about the program, as reported by Lissa Widoff.
- Deputy Clerk, Cindy was waiting for a person, now working at Knox to be trained and Cindy Abbott will follow up with Contessa.
  - Lissa Widoff also provided a name for a potential deputy clerk. She will provide a copy of the information to Cindy Abbott.

#### 13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday April 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

14. Adjourn: Lissa Widoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:3 pm, Kory Boulter seconded the motion and all approved.

**Recording Information:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/6Ek7yvG34zKiFLatkuRJD829J6I100mpJZw0Tu9q2-xtKvhVjCUiBXZI4jAO Gx.wTr0fE-4jrhqVdz2>

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