

**Beaver Ridge Road Hearing  
2-4-2025**

**Attendees:** Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Heather Donahue, Cindy Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou, Bill Kelley, Dave Pottle, Kyle Price, Erin Bennett Wade, Jason Wade, Sarah (reporter), Carrie Bennett, Don Robert (via zoom), Kayla Windblook (via zoom), Dylan Turner (via zoom), Gio Maciolek (via zoom), DJ Hager (via zoom), Judith Bennett, Stephen Bennett, Deborah Bloomstein, Phillip Bloomstein, Meredith Coffin, Charles Hadyniak, Lynn Hadyniak, Tyler Hadyniak, Donald Hager, James Hayes, Robert Kanzler, Barbara Littlefield, Ronald Littlefield, Brian Murphy, Clarence Price, Kirk Thomas, Samantha Turner, Lissa Widoff

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/tsAQOTyB79Ude5ig38L7hdzi1DUZJr6N9KP9kAJpN4B3Izi7BcWvlkFmZVoFzCt4.xESZTbzErojbbtRu?startTime=1738709779000>

Passcode: XZ4XES?@

Atty Kelley opened the hearing by reviewing the reason for the hearing; to gather information regarding the use of the Beaver Ridge Road. He asked that one person speak at a time.

Laura Greeley made a clarification from last week's meeting. She stated that when she asked the abutters if they were open to foot traffic it was not her goal to come to a conclusion, she was just trying to gather information. She was looking to see if there was some sort of compromise to save money.

There have been people of interest who have reached out to residents regarding the cost of this hearing. She wants to inform residents of another option. She had not brought this up before because the Select Board was not in favor of this option. Eminent Domain is not something that the select board was in favor of but it is an option. There are reasons that this could be an option:

- The people need to understand all of the options.
- Many people in town have expressed that it is a town road.
- The amount of money the town is spending is very high.

Lyssa Widoff: Asked about the purpose of the meeting. She asked for clarification regarding how the Select Board are using this data to resolve the issues presented.

Atty Kelley responded to this question.

Meredith Coffin asked about Eminent Domain. Atty Kelly clarified.

Kyle Price asked which statue was being addressed. Atty Kelly responded 302a. He clarified the procedural question.

Phil Bloomstein: Moved to Freedom in 1975. They live on the other end of Beaver Hill/ Deer Hill. His section of the road has been discontinued and they have maintained it. He and his wife walk in the field and the woods. He would like to see the area open to walking. He appreciates the snowmobiles because they create a walkable trail. He has ridden his mountain bike through there. He has walked the entire red section at least a couple of times a week.

Heather Donahue: Purchased her land in 2020 and lives on Beaver Ridge Road. She is presenting as a citizen tonight. She moved to Freedom in 2022. She has walked the road weekly since she moved here. She used the Gazetteer to walk the road as it lists it as an open road.

Samantha Turner: Lives on the North Palermo Road. Around 2008 she used the road for a school project. Later in high school she was attending an advanced art class and she took photos using the road. There was a section of the road that was not passable. Later she attempted to do some photography in that area. She and a sibling had walked through the trails on Beaver Ridge Road. She acknowledged that there were sections that were impassable. This past summer she would take back roads home and she saw the no trespassing signs and turned around. She remembers using some of the discontinued town roads for ATVing.

Dave Pottle: His parents grew up in Freedom. His grandfather was Ben McFarland. From the time he was 6 until he was 16, he would go over the road. Some of the road was passable and some was not. He owns property below the Hadyniak's. Since 2016 he has not gone through there with an ATV, as the road was not passable. He is concerned that if there was a fire there would be limited access to the fields and trees.

Heather Donahue continued her presentation: she shared the map she used when she bought her property. She began her discussion with Tyler regarding eminent domain with the transmission line ordinance development. She presented a 1818 map. She clarified that 4 Rods were taken and that was 66 feet wide, this was from a document from 1823. This document was from the DOT archives. She presented multiple maps. (Please refer to the transcription for further information.) She will provide paper copies of her presentation for the record.

Carrie Bennett: Lives on the Bennett Road. Her understanding is that it has always been a public road. They had accessed it from the side. Her daughter had a confrontation recently regarding the use of the road. She has walked it and ridden horses on it. They turned around because they were being respectful. She had asked permission to be on the road. In 2015 some teenagers drove trucks on Ron Price's field. In 2006 she spoke with Sally Ann and out of respect she did not go through with her horses. For 16 years from 2000-2016 she would drive through during the summer only.

Jason Wade: Owns property with Erin Bennett. He has owned land in Freedom since 2001. For years there have been trees across the road and has had limited access. You could still use it on foot. If you stay on the actual Beaver Hill Road it is not passable except by foot. The section from Sibley Road to the trail. Since 98 it has not been passable with a vehicle. He has not gone past the Hadyniak's. He has asked permission to hunt the area.

Kyle Price: owns land abutting this road. He feels it is unfortunate that they have gotten to this place. Easements do not allow for snowmobiles and ATV's. He feels it will be solved in court. The section Jason referred to has not been passible since 1980. It was washed out by the hurricane that came through in the 1950s. He hopes that the land abutters will work this out. His land has not been posted.

Jason Wade: stated that there are many roads that are on maps but are not passable.

Lynn Hadyniak: She wants to clarify what one of the neighbors said. Every one of the abbutters of Beaver Ridge Road have always had access. The issue has been with people who don't live there. It has also been in response to the bad behavior and criminal activity that has occurred recently.

Steve Bennett: Presented a survey with the subdivision that was approved by the town of Freedom and it was completed in 1980. He provided the town with a copy. He stated the walls appear to be 3 rods apart. It is a 3 rod road. He read a letter from Rick Martin.

Rick Martin: The over the beaver road was washed out in 1953 due to a hurricane. The letter was presented in evidence.

Steve Bennett: further discussed water damage potential to the roads. He has no problem with people walking. People have asked permission to use it. He has an issue with 4 wheeler because they dig up the road. He referred to the 2010 vote. He provided a letter written in 2009 by Atty. Kelley. He presented what he described as case law that applies to the road.

Laura Greeley asked about the deposition that Tyler presented to the court from Steve Bennett. Steve Bennett clarified what he had done on his own and it was not a deposition of those individuals.

Lynn Hadyniak: the road has been posted as private since 1997. What brought this to a head was that Heather wanted to come out on her own with the unleashed dogs. Lynn feels that Heather encouraged people to come onto their property. It was the people being violent that brought this to a head, "had they not behaved like that we probably would not be here."

Kyle Price: reviewed the history of the road.

Ron Price: Stated that he wished they had done something about the road in the past. From 1980 til now there has only been one time that there was ever any damage done to those fields.

Bob Kanzler: there was a truck parked on the road blocking the road and the select board asked that the truck be removed. The Select Board has asked that barriers be removed in the past.

Tyler Hadyniak: said that there has never been cinder blocks as barriers and the town has never asked them to remove barriers in the past.

Atty. Kelly asked if there were any more comments.

xxxx: Has been up there since 2002 and he used to drive and hunt up there. He had been diverted from hunting by Tyler Hadyniak. He stopped going up there 3 years ago.

Steve Bennett spoke about the culverts.

Atty Kelly closed the hearing to public testimony at 8:15pm