

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, June 26, 2017**

Present: Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr. Selectmen; (Boyle was absent) Karen Hatch, Town Adm.; Police Chief Josh Shackford; Road Agent Scott Brooks, FCC Chair Paul Elie; FAC Chair Janet Johnson and approximately 14 residents.

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm manifests were signed and mail was reviewed.

Babb asked for public comment and Raymond Marks spoke in regards to trapping in the town forest. Being a bird hunter he trains his dog in the town forest and has concerns for the safety for everything and everyone, he stated that he wants to know exactly where traps are.

The board had received for approval and signature from the FCC/FAC a request for a permit to trap from Rob Hatch and a request to bait bear from Justin Brooks.

Babb stated that he was with the creating of the stewardship plan and no one could be excluded. He also said that the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) was the easement holder of the town forest.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the safety and liability issues regarding trapping. Included in that discussion was placing signs warning people of traps present. Janet Johnson inquired if there could be stipulations on the permit such as signage, according to the easement holder DRED there could be. Elie had also spoken with Fish and Game regarding the trapping as well.

Elie reported that at the FCC meeting the permit was passed 4-2. The dissenting votes were because of safety and liability.

Nadine Chapman did want to go on the record that she does not support the trapping of coyotes.

Elie did also report that DRED states that we have a stellar forest in the town but again the number one issue with trapping is safety.

The board will contact town council to see if stipulations can be put on these permits. The permits were not signed.

Babb asked for department head updates and Brooks reported that he is finishing up the road grading and dust control. They will then begin culvert replacement.

Chief Shackford did not have a complete list available but there had been several DWI arrests and inappropriate signs in several areas had been removed.

Hatch asked about presenting the Boston Post Cane to the next recipient and wanted to set a date and time. The cane will be presented to Robin Sargent. The board asked that she be contacted again regarding the place and if before the July 4th holiday.

Hatch asked if they would be meeting on Monday July 3rd. A decision will be made on Thursday.

Babb made a motion at 7:34pm to enter non public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b and then e). Prior to going into session the Road Agent inquired about giving his crew Monday off as he felt the holiday traffic could be an issue and many businesses that he deals with are closed. The board agreed to give Monday off to all town employees scheduled to work as an additional holiday. Due to the transfer station being open J. Brooks will have the option of being paid for an additional 8 hours or have as a float day.

The board returned to open session at 8:07pm.

The board next reviewed the Regional Electricity Purchasing Opportunity that is being offered through Lakes Region Planning and Commission. The board agreed at this time not to change our supplier.

Also discussed briefly was an Emergency Management Deputy. At the update of the emergency plan workshop it was recommended that we have one. Day will inquire with the individual who was suggested to see if he would be interested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Hatch
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leslie R. Babb

Neal E. Boyle

Ernest F. Day, Jr.