

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, May 17, 2021**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr. and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Also present was Gary Williams, Rob Cunio, Bill Elliott, Justin Brooks, Scott Brooks, Jean Marshall, Roberta MacCarthy, Josh Shackford, Pam Keith, and Marcia Santner.

**Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes**

Gary Williams presented the Board with a Zoning Permit application for review. Williams reviewed the scope of work to be completed and items in question including erosion control and replacement of an existing patio.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:38 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (e) for legal. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 6:52 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Sessions held on 5/3/2021 and the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on 5/10/2021 as written. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

**Department Head Updates:**

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported 7 active cases of Covid-19 per dispatch while the State reports 0. Call volume included 2 medical aid, an illegal campfire, and 2 illegal brush piles. The AEDs have been assembled and Mark McKinley will be installing the cabinets at the various locations. Jim Stone is following up on the grant status but the new system tracking the grant status does not update until all applications are in. Cunio was able to reach someone at the State Fire Marshall's Office regarding the short-term rental classification and there is no official designation, it would be at the discretion of the Fire Chief as the Authority having Jurisdiction to determine occupancy, etc. and what applicable codes apply.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported that it is good to be back to work. Preparations have been made for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks announced he will be interviewing a potential candidate for the seasonal highway laborer position tomorrow. A few companies are working on quotes to outfit the new 5500 pickup truck with a plow and wing setup. Jim's truck is at Advanced Diesel with a check engine light awaiting diagnostics to be completed. Roads are being graded and dust control is scheduled for 5/21 and 5/27. Brooks reviewed a call received from a neighbor to the Danforth Bay Bridge with concern that her driveway access will not be adequate. The property owner requests paving as was agreed with the property owner across the street. Brooks informed her that a

separate agreement was negotiated at the time of the bridge design and such request cannot be accommodated this late in the project but he assured her that her access will be restored as it was prior to the bridge construction. All work to be completed is within the town's right-of-way and a prior planned culvert affecting her property has been removed from the scope of work. Brooks stated the property owner may request to be placed on the agenda for further discussion.

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford call volume including alarm activation, multiple needle collections, motor vehicle accident at the Post Office, several other alarm activations, a noise complaint at a short-term rental property, speeding complaints on Ossipee Lake Road, suspicious activity, welfare check, assistance to a call in Madison, theft of a water spray tank from the Danforth Bay Bridge and a hit and run. Shackford announced he will be tracking complaints received at short-term rental properties.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White reported the first week reopened to the public went very well. Seven new cases were received for this month's ZBA meeting so it was a busy week assembling abutters notifications and board member packets.

**Old / New Business / Discussion:**

Cunio questioned if the Board needed to meet in non-public to follow up on last week's discussion? Babb responded that correspondence is in the red folder to be sent.

Day requested acknowledgement of Jim McElroy's resignation from the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee be sent and to include appreciation for his years of service to the Committee.

A request for use of the bandstand by children attending a summer program at the Library was discussed. The Board was in favor of allowing use as requested.

A request received from a tennis club to reserve the tennis court on a specified day/time for a program offered to children in Freedom and Madison was reviewed. Consensus of the Board is that the tennis courts are available for public use on a first come, first serve basis and should not be reserved. Florio suggested reaching out to Mark McKinley to see if there is still an active sign-up sheet for community use. The request comes along with an offer to provided crack sealing on the court in exchange for use. The Board was in agreement that this was not necessary with the planned resurfacing to happen this year.

Florio discussed information to be prepared for the upcoming public hearings on the Masonic Lodge acquisition including quotes/costs received for building needs (electrical, roof, heating, etc.), copy of the building inspector's report, and eminent domain.

Florio questioned if Senior Resource Coordinator Renee Wheaton is in need of anything further regarding the proposed community garden? Day responded that the Board agreed to allow the use of the land and was not aware of anything else.

Florio discussed flow of recycling items at the Transfer Station stating that a lot of people are bringing their recyclables back to their homes instead of disposing into single stream when the containers are full. J. Brooks responded that they are doing their best to do the right thing for both sides while there is no market for recyclables. The only option would be to purchase another compactor. The contract for hauling is due to renewal next year and will be revisited to see if there are alternative options.

Review of the Danforth Bay Bridge project status. NH DOT has approved the contract amendments and change orders submitted. Additional change orders are forthcoming following items noted at last week's construction meeting held. A few safety issues are to be addressed that were results of bridge design flaws. Engineering contract amendment #3 was presented for signatures. The Board was in favor of Babb signing the amendment.

**Public Input:**

Jean Marshall stated that she would like to present information received at the monthly meetings of the Lakes Region Planning Commission to the Selectmen on a regular basis. The Board welcomed this idea and thanked her for her membership.

Marcia Santner expressed concern with speeding on Watson Hill noting a very near miss for an accident at her home and suggested a sign for reduced speed and blind driveway. Chief Shackford acknowledged receipt of her complaint and assured her that daily patrols are being completed. Santner also questioned large truck presence in the neighborhood.

**Non-Public Session(s):**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:32 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (c) for a tax matter. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:41 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:41 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (a) for personnel. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:20 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Discussion continued:**

Brief discussion on preparation for the public hearings.

Question of whether short-term rentals should be addressed by the Fire Chief for concern of life safety measures. Further discussion on changes to be made to the Zoning Ordinance in regard to short-term rentals. Babb explained that the Planning Board has the ability to enact changes as deemed necessary. Brief discussion on implementing a ban versus regulating. White reminded the Board that Anne Cunningham stated availability for discussion at the Planning Board level in June or July.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Non-Public Sessions – 5/3/2021	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 5/10/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 5/12/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 5/12/2021	Approved
Letter – Freedom School Board, Superintendent, Principal re: Life Safety Protocol	Approved
Engineering Contract Amendment #3 – Ossipee Lake Road Bridge Project	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Minutes – Joint Loss Management Safety Committee Meeting – 5/11/2021	Reviewed
Minutes – FAISC Meeting – 5/13/2021	Reviewed
E-Mail – Jim McElroy – Resignation from FAISC	Reviewed
E-Mail – Cindy Fleming – Request for use of gazebo for Library program	Reviewed

E-Mail – Advantage Kids NH – Request for use of tennis court	Reviewed
E-Mail – Josh Bouchard, CMA Engineers – Bridge Preliminary Project Walkthrough	Reviewed
Invitation – Freedom Elementary Student Council Memorial Day Service	Reviewed
Form – Waiver for Driveways Installed Prior to 1996	Reviewed
Claim – Primex, Settlement resolution with Charter-Spectrum	Reviewed
NH DES Wetlands Application – Bella 13, LLC, additional details and clarification	Reviewed

Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb

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Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Melissa M. Florio