

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2023**

Non-Public

Present were Chairman Les Babb, Selectmen Ernie Day, Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall.

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 6:30 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b), hiring Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 6:45 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 6:45 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b), hiring Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 7:00 pm Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Public Meeting

Also, in attendance were: Scott Brooks, and Rob Cunio.

Public: None: Susan Douglass, Dan Evarts, Bob Chaplin, Bill Elliott, Darwin Moulton, Janice Zecher, Paul Elie, Karen Collier, Frances Collier.

Department Head Updates:

Police- Jamie reported that the department has a lead on getting a K9 donated to the department. The dog is from an excellent bloodline. The dog trainer will assess the dog to see if it is a good fit for the department.

Jamie stated it has been a very busy summer. The police report is 109 pages long and consists of various offenses. He also said he has a few kids who have gotten into trouble this summer and will be doing some community service. He will ask Scott about picking up trash on the side of the road.

Office- Stacy reported the upper part of Danforth Pond does not need milfoil treatment.

Highway- Scott was not present

Fire Department- Rob was not present.

Transfer Station- No report given.

Public Comment

Darwin asked if Jamie still had the vest from the other dog. Jamie said he probably does, but it must be updated due to the expiring body armor. If there is a need for vests, Darwin suggested fundraising.

Appointment

Karen Collier came before the board to discuss her concerns she has about nonresidents using the town beaches. She explained when she was looking for a place to live, they considered Freedom and Madison because of their beaches. She has an autoimmune disorder requiring her to exercise, and swimming is one of the exercises she likes. Karen has noticed in the past few years, there has been an uptick in the use of both the town beaches. It seemed more apparent on Loon Lake with folks coming over from Maine. Scenarios of taking up the whole beach and drinking and bad behavior are just a few reasons she is concerned with nonresidents using the beach. If the police need to be called, it can take time to get someone there. She also has witnessed multiple vehicles without passes at Ossipee Beach, and again the beach was taken up and the police are called. Dispatch tells her there are no Freedom police available, and they stated they had received multiple calls about people using the beach who should not be using it. When Karen posted her concern on Facebook, there was a lot of feedback regarding this issue with the beaches. She thinks many people have this concern but are afraid to come forward.

What can be done, people pay money to use the beaches by purchasing transfer station stickers, and we do not have the resources to police them. Karen suggested more aggressive signage stating Freedom residents only, and you need a pass. Towing is not reasonable because it takes too long to get a tow truck, or do we sell beach passes and use the money to hire an attendant for the summer. Karen also suggested an attendant for July and August and stated we have the winter to come up with a plan for next summer.

Jamie apologized for not calling Karen back last year regarding the women in the woods. He also stated that it takes time for them to get to the beach when a complaint is called in, but reiterated the beaches are on their radar, and he has to prioritize the resources that he has, and those resources go to nighttime patrols. Though when Karen called in her complaint Friday, nobody was on call until 2:00 p.m. Jamie supports more prominent signage. He has checked with a towing company, but the turnaround time will be slow. Jamie also commented that he is glad to hear the Sheriff's office offered to send somebody if the Freedom PD can not get there. Tickets are written for \$25.00 when given out. Discussion ensued around some of the more difficult crimes the police department is dealing with. The primary staffing is Thursday – Sunday evening and Monday- Friday day shift due to court hearings.

Les said they had asked Jamie to cover nights because the State Police and Sheriff's Office don't have anyone on at night. The Sheriff's office will cover if there is a more serious crime during the day. He suggested finding out what other towns do for coverage is cost-effective to have someone sit from 8:00 am- noon Thursday-Saturday. Karen doesn't think this should be a police matter but rather a town enforcement matter and would like to see money raised in the budget to hire an attendant. A gate with an electronic key was suggested as well. Chief Mullen supports better signage and an attendant. Ernie suggested adding permits required on the Towns website and the town column.

Melissa commented that STR renters are using the beach because they are misinformed that they can use the beach.

Les asked Karen to get on the agenda in November during budget season to discuss the attendant position.

Square Brook Association

Dan Evarts came before the board to update them on the outcome of their annual meeting. Also present were Susan Douglass and Robert Chaplin. All the challenges the town outlined for the association and the next steps were discussed. The association members expressed concern that people outside Square Brook Estates use snowmobiles on the roads. They agreed they would update their signage to communicate the winter rules. The rules will also be posted on the Facebook page. The association wants the town to continue plowing. It was also discussed the penalty for plowing snow across the road and how the sand and snow get pushed with it, creating an ice pack that can damage the trucks. Darwin gave scenarios that he has come up against plowing. Examples include people cleaning their cars off in the road and snowmachines going down the road during a snowstorm. The winter road maintenance and parking ordinance were given to Dan and Susan, outlining the fines. Ernie stated the road agent requested that the public not engage with the snow plow drivers as part of the plan. Scott didn't want the trucks, or the drivers interfered with. The public should call the town office or leave a message at the town garage if it is a weekend. It takes three to three and half hours to do the route, so the drivers do not have time to stop and talk for any length of time. Dan thanked the town for their hard work.

New Business

Tax Collector Samantha Porter- Deeding property Map 9 Lot 14 145 Scarboro Rd.

There was a brief discussion about the process before a property gets this far. Following the brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Les made a motion to authorize the tax collector deed for Map 9 Lot 14, located at 145 Scarboro Rd. motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Les made a motion to authorize the tax collector deed for Map 9 Lot 20—01B, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed; 3-0-0.

Les made a motion to authorize the tax collectors deed for Map 41 Lot 7-01 located at Weona Drive, Melissa seconded the motion; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Les spoke with the town attorney regarding recusing himself from Camp Robin Hood hearings. He said he would recuse himself from the hearing but would be available to provide his personal information as an individual, not a Selectmen.

Lindsay will let Diane Gorrow know that the board is fine with her answers on behalf of the town regarding the Cotter appeal to the Housing Board.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

The accounts payable, payroll manifests, and red folder, including correspondence, were reviewed.

Ernie made a motion to approve the Selectmen’s Meetings minutes and Nonpublic Minutes of August 07, 2023 with corrections see attached, Melissa seconded; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Ernie made a motion to approve the Selectmen’s Meeting minutes Aug 14, 2023 as written for public minutes Melissa seconded; Motion Passed 2-0-1. Les Abstained because he was not there.

Old Business

None

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Earnie made a motion to adjourn. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 8/18/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 8/16/2023	Approved
Request for Abatement –	Approved

Correspondence:

Newsletter Ossipee Lake Alliance – Dated 8/13/23 & 8/15/23	
Diane Gorrow’s letter dated 8/7/23 Re Housing Appeals granting Assented to Motion	Reviewed
Diane Gorrow’s Letter dated 8/15/23 Re Towns Answers to appeal filed by Cotters	Reviewed
Diane Gorrow’s Letter dated 8/22/23 confirming certified record for housing appeal sent	Reviewed
Barbara Loughman letter dated 7/27/23 Re Martin Sholomith	Reviewed
Steven Nalen letter re: Exploring the Possibility of ATV riding in Freedom	Reviewed
NHMA Important Dates	Reviewed
Square Brook Estates Annual Meeting minutes & Winter Action Plan	Reviewed
Abutter Notice for Blue Sky Towers Planning Board Site Plan Review	Reviewed
Zoning Complaint for 208 Haverhill St. STR	Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio