

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, July 15, 2024**

Present: Selectmen Less Babb, Alan Fall, Ernie Day, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

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

Also present are Scott Brooks, Chief Cunio, Jamie Mullen, Alan Libby and Stacy Bolduc.

Public: Jeff Nicoll, Frank Lalumiere, Roberta MacCarthy, Paul Elie, Brain Taylor, Brandy and Kerri Buttrick, Ian Garcia

## Public Meeting

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

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

**Ernie made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections changing the word silk to silt and the non-public minutes of July 1, 2024, motion seconded by Alan Fall; motion passed unanimously.**

### **Department Heads-**

**Police-** Jamie reported that it has been busy with the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Boca conducted her first search. Clayton responded to a domestic call, and Boca found the person who had fled the scene. The department assisted Ossipee and the Sheriff's department with an attempted suicide. There was a minor accident in the town office parking lot today. There was no damage to the town property. Jamie said he has a part-time candidate who has experience in IT searches who he is doing a background check on. The new cruiser will cost \$14,000 to outfit. Jamie hopes to have it ready within the next couple of weeks.

**Transfer Station-** Alan said the 4<sup>th</sup> of July went well. They took in one hundred fourteen loads of brush over the holiday weekend, only twenty loads came this past weekend. They had a small fire in the leave pile because someone dumped hot ashes. The fire department was called, and the issue was resolved. The new gate is open, and that is also going well.

**Highway-** Scott reported that the roadside mowing started last week. Loon Lake Rd., Round Pond, Kidder Drive, and Freedom Point are done. The crew has replaced one culvert on Scarboro Road and two on Watson Hill. They will continue cleaning out the turnouts from the rain showers.

Scott explained that two culverts, one on Swett's Hill and another on Rice Hill, had been installed incorrectly by the contractor. He did not follow the driveway permit. Scott spoke to the contractor, and he was supposed to fix the culverts two weeks ago but has not done it yet. Water is now running along the pavement in front of the driveway on Swett's Hill. Scott wants the office to send a letter to the landowner explaining a deadline to fix the culverts. The contractor told Scott he just put the culverts in because he did not have the driveway permit. Scotts is going up in the grader to fix the water issue. Les agreed that a letter should be sent because we just paved the road.

The letter should include:

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They did not follow the driveway design, so two culverts were incorrectly installed and need to be corrected by the end of the month. Another driveway on 105 Freedom Point Rd has the same issue. The ditch line is not deep enough and flat, so you cannot put a culvert across the driveway because there is no place for it to run. The driveway permit was supposed to be a swale; they paved it, filled it in, and brought it out into the road. The asphalt will need to be cut back and the grade of the driveway cut down.

The design for Danforth Bay was reviewed next. Scott is not in favor of creating a ditch where no ditch is necessary. He reviewed the plan with the Selectboard. The proposed dry well in front of the hydrant will get filled with gravel if we do not have frozen conditions. Scott does not think what is proposed will handle the rainstorms we have been having. He wants a solution different from the proposed dry wells because they will fill up and overflow. Frank Lalumiere was present to comment on the design and stated that the plan is a concept design and that there is still time to update the design to address Scott's concerns. The engineer expected there would be changes. Scott will talk to the engineer and discuss his concerns. The board supports Scott talking to the engineer to get his concerns addressed. The low spot in front of the hydrant is a bad design.

### **Public-**

Jeff Nicole asked for the board's feedback on the RFP for fixing Trout Pond Rd. Ernie thought the RFP looked good. The deadline for the end of the month will not work and will need to be updated. Jeff asked how long you put a RFP out for. Scott responded usually a week to ten days after a pre-bid. A date for the pre-bid has to be set first. Then, two weeks after the pre-bid the RFP is due. Barry Keith will do the pre-bid. Jeff will coordinate with Barry and modify the date on RFP.

Rob Cunio updated the board on activity for the past two weeks- ten medical aids, including one mutual aid. Three alarms, one tree wire down, three service calls. The zodiac will be picked up tomorrow. Family day during Old Home Week will include a bouncy house, hot dog stand, cotton candy stand, police dog demo and touch a truck.

With the aid of a handout Rob reviewed the Mutual Aid Agreement with Effingham regarding the shelter.

### **Appointments- None**

### **Old/New Business-**

Danforth Bay Retaining Wall Update- **Alan** updated the board back in the 1950's. Albert Huckins granted Deluca and Tibbetts a strip of land that involves the property we are discussing, an easement Map 32 Lot 7. Alan suggested getting a title search done to see how the Town of Freedom obtained the land. The title search would include 1950 until the present. Alan can see the town owning the land only if it was taken by tax deed. Unfortunately, online, there is a big part of the time where the tax deeds and tax liens did not go into the regular books; they go into special tax books, and he doesn't think they are online. He looked up Tibbetts, and there was an issue at one point, but he needs to find out if it was a tax lien or tax deed. Alan suggests whoever the attorney uses for title work, have them do the title search. Les asked Stacy if she had contacted Rod to see how the Tibbetts land was being assessed. Rod said it was being assessed for water access only. Stacy said this question came up in 2005, and it was never answered, but the wall was repaired. If the town owns the property, great, but if Tibbetts owns the property, that is different. Les tasked Stacy with reaching out to the attorney and asking if Scott determines the road needs to be fixed, can we fix it and if a betterment assessment can be assessed on the properties that are accessing it. Scott said that the edge of the pavement to the edge of the wall is 13 ft, so it is right at the end of the right of way because the road is three-rod. Stacy will reach out to Diane Garrow tomorrow.

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Ernie proposed adding a personal day to the personal policy. Most towns have three days. Les and Alan agreed but Les wants it posted that there will be a public hearing at the next meeting. Employee input is welcomed.

### **Appointments**

Stacy reported she reached out to FAISC members to get feedback regarding merging the FAISC with the FCC. She has heard back from Meagan Broadrick and Nancy Cristoferi, and neither one has an issue with the two boards being combined, though the meetings are longer. The two boards combined have a total of seven members, with Linda Mailhot as an alternate.

**Ernie made a motion to merge the FAISC with the FCC, Motion seconded by Alan; Motion passed unanimously.**

Two requests for reconsideration were reviewed. Les asked for a motion to reappoint Sue Hoople to the Heritage Commission, no motion was made. Kerri Buttrick stated she needs help understanding the decision not to appoint Sue to the Heritage Commission. She is valuable to the commission with her knowledge of the properties. The board is down to three members. Brady Buttrick stated he is acting as chair because the board does not have a chairman, and he thinks it is unfortunate that they have a volunteer in Freedom who wants to volunteer because they love Freedom and did not get reappointed. He wishes the BOS had reached out to the Heritage Commission to inform them that this action would take place. The perception in town where a person receives a letter that they have not been reappointed begs the question of whether it is worth volunteering. He is asking for reconsideration.

Alan agreed with Kerri's statement about reaching out to him first.

Les asked if there was a motion to reappoint.

**Les made a motion to reappoint Sue Hoople to the Heritage Commission; no second was made.**

Roberta MaCarthy asked what had just happened. Les said he made a motion, which was seconded by no one.

Les said there is a request to reappoint Paul Eli to the FCC and asked for a motion to reappoint him. Jeff Nicole stated that Paul has been a core member of the FCC this past year. His dedication to the cause is clear, and he listed his successes in mentoring and doing the Natural Resource Inventory project. No reason communicated as to why he was not reappointed.

Les said an alternate position is available and asked for a motion to reappoint the position.

No motion was made.

**Non-Public**

8:10 pm Les made a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation, Roll call Vote

Les-yes

Ernie-yes

Alan-yes

Les made a motion to resume the public meeting at 8:25 pm, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.

**Non-Public**

8:25 pm Les made a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation, Roll call Vote

Les-yes

Ernie-yes

Alan-yes

Les made a motion to resume the public meeting at 8:30 pm, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously

Being no further input, Alan made a motion to adjourn. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

**Consent Agenda:**

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 7/10/2024

Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 7/12/2024

Approved

Meeting Minutes 7/1/2024

Approved

**Correspondence:**

Letter to Jeff Garrett

Reviewed

Letter From the Heritage Commission

Reviewed

Town Hall Repairs

Reviewed

Email From Gayle Lee Re: York Lane

Reviewed

Freedom Conservation Letter Reappointments

Reviewed

Ian Garcia Letter Re : Moulton Rd.

Reviewed

Tardie Tax Card

Reviewed

Robert Turpin Letter

Reviewed

Spectrum Update Re: Billing

Reviewed

FCC/FAC Membership

Reviewed

Town Officers and Board Members

Reviewed

Rob Cunio Numbers Update

Reviewed

MOU For Between Freedom & Effingham

Reviewed

RFP For Trout Pond

Reviewed

Barry Keith email Re: Trout Pond Reviewed

Reviewed

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Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie R. Babb

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan G. Fall