

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, July 29, 2024**

Present: Selectmen Chairman Les Babb, Alan Fall, and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, 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 were Rich Laferriere, Scott Brooks, Alan Libby, Rob Cunio

Public: Kerri & Brandy Buttrick, Frank Lalumiere, Mark Mckinley, Sue Hoople, David Geroge, Paul Elie and Janice Zecher, Roberta MaCarthy

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Alan made a motion to accept the July 15, 2024, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as written.

Recycling the dryers, refrigerators and air conditioners have generated another \$542.00 in revenue, and the staff is kept busy. There has been a negative comment from someone in the public that it is a waste of time.

Highway- Scott reported that the crew has been changing culverts, mowing roadsides and screening loam. They have also been getting ready for the Huckins road project.

Mark Mckinley- Mark reported that fire alarm inspections are coming up. The septic will be pumped at the public safety building this fall.

Alan Fall- Reported that he does not have the contract from Plateworks yet. He will be attending a Zoom meeting with the Preservation Society, Jason Earle, and Kerri and Brandy Buttrick to get Alyssa's contract in line for LChip.

Stacy Office- Reported that Scott and Stacy attended a meeting with FEMA and an application for assistance was submitted for the April storm. And the audit is still ongoing.

Les announced to the employees and the public that he had received a resignation letter from Ernie Day. He has resigned effective immediately. Les said he was sorry to see this and stated he would miss him. Ernie was a big help to Les keeping track of everything and inline. Alan confirmed Les's sentiments.

Alan made a motion to accept Ernie's letter of resignation with regret, Les seconded the motion; Motion passed.

Police- Rich reported it has been busy.

Old Business –

Danforth Bay Wall update-Stacy updated the board that the deed research is underway. She and Alan talked to the Town Attorney, who has turned the matter over to a title abstractor. A betterment fee cannot be assessed, and the matter of the deed research will take time as it is involved.

Stacy confirmed if Scott had to sure up the road, he could. Scott suggested waiting to see who owns the lot. The area is stabilized. Scott questioned how this affects the grant Frank Lalumiere is working on for that area because of not

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being able to expend public funds on private property outside of the town's right of way.

Personal Policy- to add a third personal day to the personal policy.

Alan made a motion to add a third personal day to the personnel policy, motion seconded by Les; Motion passed.

David George from Scrub Oak Scramblers updated the board that he has three of the four grants he applied for. Two of the bridges are a go. If he gets the work done and still has time left to use the machine, he would like to fix what he can of Jackman Ridge Rd. The request for proposals is out Les said.

Fire Department-

Rob reported: Ten medical aids, two fire alarms, one service call, and one gas odor investigation. He also reported on the Old Home week festivities, and he is still waiting for an update on the shelter paperwork.

Public Comment-

Kerri Buttrick stated she sent a letter to the town office regarding reinstating Sue Hoople to the Heritage Commission. At the last meeting she asked if the decision not to reappoint her had anything to do with her work with the Heritage Commission and the board said no. So, again, she is asking for Sue Hoople to be reappointed to the Heritage Commission.

Les said he made a motion, and no one seconded the motion. Les asked Alan how he would like to proceed. Alan responded we need to address the elephant in the room, and he would prefer not to do it in public session. Les said that is Sues choice.

Les explained Sus's request is on the agenda as a non-public in case things were said that would be detrimental to her reputation. Sue said she requested that she be listed on the agenda. Stacy said that all non-publics are listed at the end with no names attached. Le explained to Sue that she has a right to a non-public or public that is her choice. Janice Zecher commented that not listing it on the agenda keeps the public from knowing what is happening because if the public does not see it on the agenda, then they do not bother coming. Sue chose to move forward in public and opened with she is here tonight because she feels she must defend her reputation because she was not reappointed to the FCC or the Heritage Commission. She wanted to know how it all began and what the violations against her were. The following was discussed:

Les said that when they reviewed all the boards, the board realized no one had been reappointed to the FCC because they had yet to receive the recommendations from the FCC.

Motions were made, a couple of motions were not seconded, and the FAISC was moved into the FCC. Les explained to Sue that at the last Planning Board meeting he attended, he was under the impression that Sue was there on behalf of the Conservation Commission. Les said the issue before the Planning Board is very complex, and explained when Sue tried to bring that issue before the Selectboard, she wanted the selectman to get involved in the Planning Board procedure. Sue said no; she presented the board with three letters. The first letter stated she initially got involved because the town wanted help interpreting a deed. She then provided the town with historical data and maps because we did not have them. She said she volunteered to get the information. The following letters asked the board for help explaining the complex plans to the conservation commission and the planning board, and by the end, she said she was begging for help. She suggested the file be recreated. She went on to say that, as a citizen she has the right to attend meetings and search the public records. As an FCC member she has a sworn duty on behalf of the town to conduct research into it's local land and water areas. Sue stated she was not representing the Conservation Commission she was asking questions related to research. Wabanaki had not even come before the FCC. Section three of the Conservation bylaws state every member duty is to review all major subdivision applications as they are

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submitted to the Planning Board and make recommendations. And review all wetlands applications. Sue said someone had to complain and that is what she wants to know.

Les's response:

When you came in with a question for the Selectboard, Gary already shared the file, and the maps were already in the planning boards' hands without the Selectboard getting involved. The Selectboard has not been involved.

Les stated that before Wabanaki is done, it will be more complicated. Sue said the wetlands still need to be addressed and pointed out that Les abstained from voting. Les explained that he abstained from voting at the planning board because the board was asking for things to be reviewed that he was not there for.

Sue feels she was not reappointed to the Heritage Commission because she mentioned green materials (vinyl siding) for the office renovation. She is also thinking her inquiry about PFA's may have contributed to her not being reappointed.

She addressed Scott Brooks and said the other thing about Danforth Bay water quality is there is new information on how tire dust affects PFA's in the water and killing the fish.

Sue concluded she is adamant about transparency and honesty, and someone reported she was there on behalf of the Freedom Conservation and that was not voted on by the FCC, but the tape says she was asking questions on behalf of the Freedom Conservation and that is her duty as a FCC member to ask questions. She wants to know where it states it must be voted on for her to ask questions on behalf of the FCC that has yet seen a formal application.

Her argument is that if she runs for County Commissioner or would like to be on any commission, if they vet her, they will see she was not reappointed to either board or conclude she had done something wrong. She handed out her glass golf trophies to represent transparency.

Stacy wanted to clarify that she initially reached out to Sue to help clarify a deed that came in for Wabanaki to ensure the right lots and ownership was transferred correctly. Stacy also said she thought that Sue was before the Selectboard on behalf of the Conservation Commission. Sue said she was there on behalf of the FCC asking questions.

Janice asked if anyone approached Sue about the concern the board had about misrepresenting the FCC. Les said no the board meets every two weeks and the board had not gotten that far yet.

Discussion ensued around what is on Wabanaki.

Dr. Raynes said everyone's goal is conservation and we have good people volunteering who are knowledgeable and strong enough to be an advocate. He said Sue is an asset and the fact that she has been dropped off the FCC is a great loss to the town.

Les asked Sue if you are going to the Planning Board to represent the Conservation Commission or be a rep to the Planning Board, can you get a vote from the Conservation Commission before you do so.

Sue said she is just going to go as a member of the public.

Alan said that in being honest with Sue when she came before the Selectboard, he heard her say she was there on behalf of the Conservation Commission. when Jeff was asked, he said he had an email to her concerning that issue, and the reappointment did not happen. He was hoping that the board would have had a chance to discuss the matter with her before now.

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Les made a motion to appoint Sue to the Conservation Commission, motion was seconded by Alan with the understanding; motion passed.

Les made a motion to reappoint Sue to the Heritage Commission; Alan seconded the motion; Motion passed.

Sue asked if she and Les can sit down and review Wabanaki.

Janice asked what the process is now that Ernie has left.

Les said they can continue as they are, or they can appoint someone to finish Ernie's term, or they can hold a special election.

Alan wanted to address the issue with Monitoring well #2

He read the DES report and said he cannot find anywhere where there are any minimums or maximums but at the end of the report under other information. There is a question: *Does the facility otherwise pose a risk to human health or the environment.*

Answer: The overall assessment is the landfill is in good condition, the security threats and groundwater monitoring wells are in good condition and are being maintained.

Sue said the leachates could be a problem and should be paid attention to. That is what comes out of the containers and could leach into monitoring well two a couple of years ago will two tested high and surrounding wells were tested, and no contamination was found.

Alan said Horizons has been in to do their testing and recommends waiting to see what they say.

Frank Lalumiere- questioned if the town does not own the land and is questioning if the town will be able to still look at the project. Scott and the engineer still have not connected. He was hoping if the town did not own the property something could still be done. Alan said maybe an easement. Scott questioned if that would allow the town to spend public funds on private property. Alan said roads are easements across private property. Frank also wanted to post a sign stating who is protecting the lake. (Green Mountain Conservation ect.).

Non-Public

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 8:20 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (C), reputation. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Alan-yes. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to resume public session at 8:30 pm. Alan seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The Board reconvened the public session at 8:30 pm

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: Yes

If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by Seconded by

_____ *Pending litigation*

_____ *Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board or*

_____ *Render the proposed action ineffective*

_____ *Pertain to terrorism.*

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Alan Libby questioned if he could buy socks to capture what is leaching out of the containers. The board said yes.

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

The meeting adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Allan G. Fall