

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2025**

Present: Selectmen Les Babb, Alan Fall, Gary Williams, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall. Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Absent:

Also present: Scott Brooks, Alan Libby, Jamie Mullen, Rob Cunio, Megan Broderick, Vicki Mcvitty, Linda Mailhot, Anne Cunningham, Rich Ulrich, Jayne Britton, Paul Mathieu, Jen Brown.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, and Approval of Minutes

Alan made a motion to approve the minutes and non-public minutes of October 6 and October 20, Gary seconded the motion; Motion passed.

Public Officials Meeting

Jeff Nicoll started off the Public Meeting with an update for the Forest Conservation Commission (FCC). He reported that he is able to view his budget online and can see the FCC accounts. He summarized that the Forest Advisory Commission (FAC) has been working with the FCC In listing all the Town's resources. They have also been working on water quality testing, and maintaining access structure in the Town Forest, and reviewing development and compliance with the Town's shoreland and stormwater standards. The big project for the year was rebuilding the Trout Pond access road to the Town Forest.

The FCC and the FAISC now work together as one board. Jeff summarized the projects for this group as the following:

- The Lake Host program had two staff members attending public launch sites.
- Water Quality testing was performed by Green Mountain. Samples were taken from Loon Lake and Danforth Pond.
- Annual milfoil remediation was conducted. Megan reported a couple hundred gallons of milfoil removed from upper Danforth. Cyanobacteria were discovered at Middle Danforth and the State and DES did an inspection of the site.

Jeff projected that he would be under budget for all of the accounts and that the FAC has requested that the creation of a capital reserve fund be established for the Town Forest, as the access road has significantly depleted the Forest Maintenance account. Timber harvest funds are projected to be around \$100,000 over the next five or ten years. If significant repairs are needed soon, there may be a shortage of funds.

Les noted when the Town Forest was created, the voters were told taxes would be needed the first few years, but it would eventually be self-sustaining.

Jeff reported that the commission will formalize a process to help encumber the Town Forester budget, as the contract runs from April – April.

Freedom Food Pantry- Vicki Mcvitty director, reported that they are requesting \$6,000 from the town to assist with food purchases. The number of people needing assistance has increased this year. The food pantry also serves Effingham and Ossipee. This past Saturday, twenty-seven people needed assistance. The board supports the request and does not believe Vicki needs to come back for the budget review. Lastly, Vicki reported that a concert was held at Calumet raised \$3,664.00.

Library- Paul Mathieu reported satisfaction with their new director and noted new programs will begin soon. A list has been compiled for any maintenance issues. Improvements this year include improvements made to the lighting and the sprinkler system. Next year's maintenance includes painting all exterior trim.

Heritage Commission- Anne Cunningham, newly appointed chair (six days) is familiarizing herself with all available grants. She is currently submitting a grant for \$4,500.00 that hopes to receive the funds by year-end. Alan F. and Anne are working on public communication plan for the Schoolhouse Hill project.

Planning Board- Linda Mailhot stated that in 2025 the Planning Board reviewed

- Four site plan review applications,
- one cell phone tower application,
- one subdivision,
- one lot merger,
- two solar conditional use permits

They also made numerous updates to regulations. In 2026, updates will reflect legislative changes from Concord. The Solar Conditional Use application will be revised based on resident feedback to streamline the process for homeowners. Budget requests will be similar to last year's.

Les- Les reported that the Town of Ossipee has requested Freedom contributes to the costs of the fireworks at Constitution Park. Due to tariffs, costs have increased. Les supports the request, noting lakefront residents should benefit from their taxes. Alan F. does not support the idea. Gary agrees with Les. Freedom is being asked to split the \$25,000 cost. Jayne Britton supports the contribution, calling July 4th the most important holiday. Jeff Nicoll suggested Ossipee might help fund lake host in return. Megan Broderick has fond memories of going out on the lake to watch the fireworks and supports contributing to the costs. Gary and Les are in favor of contributing. Les will contact Matt Sawyer for more information.

Rec Department- Jen Brown reported on sports activities including flag football (grades k-1 and grades 2-6), soccer, and pickleball (played in the school gym). She would like to create a Facebook page for online enrollment and calendar planning. A petition is circulating to paint pickleball lines on the tennis court. Alan F. asked about adding a tab on the Town's website for the Rec Department. Stacy said it's possible but may not function as desired.

Jen also mentioned sha has cash from August that needs to be deposited. Stacy said the account can be set up Wednesday when the CPA is present. Jennifer will gather information for the Facebook Page and

discuss It further with the board. The cook shack at the ball field has been cleaned out. Fence repairs were discussed, and Les directed Jen to work with Mark for budget planning. Jen also asked about flooding the old hockey rink this winter. Volunteers are available, and the fire department can flood it. The board supports the idea.

Police- Jamie Mullen reported that the body cameras have been helpful in dealing with the public this year. Boca, the police dog, is now certified. The department handled cases involving soliciting a minor, requiring extradition from Massachusetts, there were also a number of high-speed chases that occurred throughout the year. In 2026, they plan to apply for grants to purchase a mobile data port and other equipment.

Highway- Scott Brooks reported no major projects this year. On Huckins Road they completed ware coating and shoulder grading. Fall maintenance is done, and the box culvert on Burnham Rd will be replaced in November. Gravel crushing in Watsons pit resulted in 6000 yards of 4” gravel and 4000 yards of 1.5”. There may be one more year of winter sand available. Scott would like to trade in the Ford-150 for a one-ton pickup with a plow to service the area between Town Hall and the Church. The truck would be used year-round. Maintenance on Ossipee Lake Road, Pequawket, and Huckins road were discussed.

Transfer Station- Alan Libby reported the tonnage for year to date.

- 187 tons for C&D,
- 106 tons for recyclables,
- MSW 409 tons.

Moving the recycling compactor below improved traffic flow. Next year’s projects include building covers for C&D to reduce snow and ice contamination and paving the entrance.

Fire- Rob reported 382 calls for service to date. The major project was dredging the fire pond on Scarboro Road, which now has a good refill rate and will be a valuable water source. The Fire ban remains in effect, and a message has been added to Chiefs phone. A 15’ zodiac inflatable boat was acquired through government surplus, and the association purchased a 25hp motor and trailer. A grant in the amount of \$34,952.38 funded the replacement of all 1 3/4” hose and nozzles. Rob is considering adding a full-time position.

Town Office- Stacy reported that the office has been using the new accounting system since August and is still working through reconciliation. The GIS mapping update will hopefully be completed soon. This update will interact with AVITAR (assessing) allowing timelier updates to town maps. In 2026, the website will be the next project to address.

Department Head Update

Two weeks of Reporting

Fire- Rob reported two medical aids, one fire alarm, one CO alarm, and one illegal burn. Tires for the F1 arrived this week. He would like to use the capital reserve to cover the cost. Rich Ulrich completed Firefighter II certification. The boat is out of the water for the season.

Alan made a motion to enter non-public at 7:50 pm. under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Employee, seconded by Gary;
Roll call vote:
Babb-Yes
Fall- Yes
Willaims- Yes

Les made the motion to reconvene the public session, p.m. motion seconded by Alan; Motion carried.
The Board reconvened the public session at 8:00 pm.

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: Yes

If no of 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.

Les Made a motion to authorize Stacy to pay the highway employees holiday and vacation time; seconded by Alan; Motion carried.

Stacy asked for direction on piece of property that the town owns and the owner may want to redeem it. Stacy was directed to get the information from NHMA how then new law that went into effect a couple of years ago will affect this request.

Stacy will post the Selectmen meeting to set the tax rate when she hears back from DRA.

Payroll Manifest – week ending –	10/29/2025	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending	10/31/2025	Approved
Meeting Minutes	10/06/ 2025 & 10/20/2025	Approved

Correspondence

Carroll County Commissioners Meeting Minutes & Agenda	Reviewed
Department of Revenue Apportionment of County Budget	Reviewed
Freedom Food Pantry Statistics	Reviewed

Being no further input, Fall made a motion to adjourn. Williams seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.
Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Alan G. Fall

Gary R. Williams

