Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2026

Present: Selectmen Les Babb, Alan Fall, and Gary Williams; Stacy Bolduc, recording secretary. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall located at 16 Elm St.

Absent: Scott Brooks
Department Heads Present: Alan Libby, Chief Laferriere, Kyle Thomas
Public Present: Robert Rafferty, Jim Guido, Brian Taylor, Paul Elie, Jen Ulrich, Roberta MacCarthy, Sue Hoople, Sara Butterfield, Anne Cunningham, Jeff Nicoll and Melissa Florio and Karl Ogren.

Public Officials Meeting

Les reported that the Fire Department will burn the house at 50 Eaton Rd. due to mold and disrepair. He noted that the Town previously used bonds for road projects but borrowing costs have increased. The Ossipee Lake Rd. project is estimated at $3 million. The Select Board awaits final school tuition details. Reported per-student tuition is $66,000 at Kennett and $26,000 at Kingswood, with a total difference of $1.5 million; parents of students attending prefer Kennett. Anne Cunningham asked how the school would be selected. Les stated that the Freedom School Board is consulting legal counsel about placing the question on the school warrant.

Transfer Station

Alan Libby reported this year's budget is looking good. He shared the cost of the recycling program is expensive. Last years cost to get rid of the recyclables was $23,000 this year it's up to $43,000. The bulk of it is cardboard so he is proposing buying a baler. On the market it would sell for $100.00 a ton. He noted that the market does fluctuate.

Fire Department

Chief Cunio reported:

- The department has responded to 363 calls to date.
- Grant funding was received for 1¾-inch hose, nine nozzles, and enough spare hose to replace all truck hose.
- The early-spring Ossipee Lake Response Plan covers open-water and ice rescue and includes Freedom, West Ossipee, Center Ossipee, Effingham, and the Center Ossipee dive team. The team deployed three times in Freedom this summer: one unfounded call, one drowning, and one incident on Loon Lake.

- The department continues pursuing grants to replace Engine 2 and handheld and full-size thermal imaging cameras.
- The school purchased a Knox box. The department also offers residential Knox boxes keyed for police and fire access.
- A warrant article will be submitted for a full-time position covering safety and station duties.

Police Department

Chief Laferriere reported:

- The new k9 cruiser is outfitted and in use. The k9 is certified for finding drugs and is one of the top dogs in the county.
- Currently the budget is under due to Chief Mullen retiring early last year.
- Would like to do a warrant article for a cruiser for the new hire allowing each officer to have their own car. In 2028 with the increase in calls and arrests he will be requesting a forth officer.
- There is now an office person available to assist the public with paperwork and other requests.

Facilities

- Kyly Thomas reported all is well with the buildings and will continue on with the town next year.

Heritage Commission

Anne Cunningham reported limited Heritage Commission activity and submission of a $10,000 LChip grant application. Once warrant articles are finalized, the Commission will hold a public informational meeting on Town Office plans. No bond will be proposed. The Commission will explore additional grants based on the warrant articles for Town Office repairs.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Karl reported that it has been a slower year than the past year.

Freedom Conservation Commission

Jeff Nicoll reported:

- Two miles of forest boundaries were reblazed, focusing on the Duby and Ford lines and the Purity Springs border.
- The rebuilt Trout Pond trail sustained no damage during spring storms.
- The Scrub Oak Scramblers maintained trails and cleared trees to improve fire equipment access.

- Trail name signs were installed and kiosks repainted.
- Freedom Old Home Week wagon rides were fully booked, with demand exceeding capacity. Jeff thanked Josh Battles for his assistance.
- Initial water quality testing established a baseline for Trout Pond for comparison with other lakes in town.
- The FCC is working with the forester on a proposed 125–135-acre timber harvest west of the airstrip, planned for next spring after conditions dry. The formal plan will be presented to the Select Board.
- The FCC reviewed 16 Zoning Board and DES applications this year and provided input on the Kearsarge Energy project on Babcock Rd.
- Seven to eight acres of the Danforth ponds were treated. An August DES survey found no further treatment necessary, reducing this year's costs. The budget request will also be lower, even with the state's 50% reimbursement grant.
- The Lake Host program, supported in part by Ossipee funding, successfully intercepted five milfoil fragments on outgoing boats, preventing spread to other water bodies.
- Members attended day-long education and training at the New Hampshire Lakes Congress on threats to New Hampshire lakes.

Planning Board

Melissa reported the board's activity:

- 1 major subdivision approved
- 2 lot line adjustments
- Held a Public hearing under RSA 414-A to recommendation action on a proposed land gift to the Town.
- Conducted 18 short-term rental reviews
- Sara Butterfield and Linda Mailhot serve on the Lakes Planning Commission and will share grant opportunities for the transfer station, fire department and planning board.
- The Board draft warrant articles at it's November meeting.
- Lakes Region Planning indicated that should be some grant monies available for doing the master plan in 2028.
- The third-party reviewer bid is still out.
- The budget is under due to a slow year and a new checking account will be opened for land use board fees.

FEMA Update

Les updated the June storm was declared a disaster.
Les said everyone should have received their budget worksheets. If not let Stacy know.

The Public Officials Meeting Closed
Selectmen's Meeting

Awarding Vehicle Bids

Two town vehicles were posted on the Municibid.
2016 Ford interceptor. Highest bid $2,800
2018 Ford F550 with 9' power angle plow and a 10' angle plow with a Minute Mount Fisher Hitch. Highest Bid $25,300.

Les made a motion to accept the bid from Richard Cain for $2,800 for the 2016 Ford Interceptor, motion seconded by Gary; motion accepted unanimously.

Les made a motion to accept the bid from Clarence Garnett for $25,300 for the 2018 F550 with plows and Minute Mount Fisher Hitch, Gary seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Minutes
Gary made a motion to accept the minutes of October 19th with the correction on line 82 change the name Mike Makinnley to Mark McKinley, Alan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Department Heads

Transfer Station
Alan Libby reviewed a $5,200 electrical invoice for installing heat beneath the office for the hydraulics, replacing upstairs baseboard heat, adding an office thermostat, and replacing the bathroom baseboard heat and thermostat. Two other electricians did not return his calls; Alan will provide their names to Stacy for documentation.

Fire

Inspection and servicing revealed broken springs and valve issues on the tank truck. Three quotes were sought under the purchasing policy. Lakes Region Fire Apparatus provided the most accurate information and a $7,764 estimate, primarily for labor. Advanced Diesel had scheduling constraints, and Donovan Spring and Equipment did not respond. Repairs were expedited due to dry conditions and life-safety concerns. The truck is back in service.

Alan F. moved to accept the Simonetti Electric estimate. Gary seconded. Motion passed.

Police

Chief Laferriere confirmed that electronic speed signs with message boards may be installed on town roads. Errol's chief will send the DOT application for the signs.

Wildlife Baiting Policy: The Select Board reviewed a wildlife-baiting application and upheld the FCC's denial to avoid attracting bears to recreational areas in the Town Forest.

Les moved to uphold the FCC's denial of the baiting application for the reasons discussed. Alan seconded. Motion passed.

The FCC will develop a consistent policy and documentation process to expedite future application responses. Les requested inclusion of the easement holders' process.

CMA Coordination:

Stacy asked whether the Board or a member wished to join a call between Bobrek and CMA to discuss test pit information and peer-review comments. The Board designated Zoning Officer Brian Fontain to convey its position to the engineers.

Tax Rate: Stacy reported that DRA has not yet set the tax rate.

Brian's Tablet

The Board approved a tablet for the Zoning Officer's field use. Stacy confirmed that Lakes Region will purchase and manage it.

Motion: Alan moved to enter nonpublic session at 7:35 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(C) (Reputation). Gary seconded. Roll-call vote:
Babb: Yes
Fall: Yes
Williams: Yes
Motion: Alan moved to return to public session. Gary seconded. Motion carried.
The Board reconvened in public session at 7:45 p.m.
Nonpublic minutes to be publicly disclosed: No
Roll-Call Vote to seal minutes:
Les: Y
Alan: Y
Gary: Y

Mini Splits

The board discussed briefly getting mini split quotes for the Town Office for the 2027 warrant article.

The board also agreed to move forward with the 3 Ossipee Lake Rd deed. Stacy will reach out to town counsel to request "draft" be removed from the deed so the board can sign it.

The board reviewed an employee's hours to determine health insurance eligibility.

Follow-up tasks

Heritage Grant: Complete and submit the remaining paperwork to recover the $10,000 Heritage grant funds. (Heritage committee)

Heritage Community Session: Schedule a community communication session after the warrant articles are finalized to explain the Heritage project and identify potential grant opportunities. (Heritage committee)

Town Forest Timber Harvest: Obtain the forester's formal plan for the proposed 125–135-acre timber harvest and share it with the Select Board. (FCC)

Master Plan Funding: Investigate available grant funding for updating the town master plan. (Planning Commission)

Third-Party Review: Continue soliciting bids for a third-party reviewer and select a reviewer. (Planning Commission)

Budget Meetings: Complete the departmental budget meetings scheduled for November and reserve December for final fine-tuning. (Select Board and department representatives)

Surplus Vehicle Sales: Remove town decals and radios from the vehicles awarded through the municipal bid before releasing them to buyers, and collect certified bank checks for each sale. (Town office)

Field Tablet Purchase: Authorize and purchase the field tablet included in Brian's budget for real-time field work through Lakes Region funding. (Select Board, Brian)

Speed Limit Signage: Complete the DOT application and coordinate with the highway department on installing speed-limit posts and signs on town roads. (Chief, Carol, Highway Department)

Wildlife Baiting Policy: Draft and adopt a written policy and application guidance for future bear and wildlife baiting requests, including the required steps in the easement folders. (Select Board, Conservation Commission)

Payroll Manifest (week ending 10/14/26): Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest (week ending 10/16/2026): Approved

Meeting Minutes (10/5/2026): Approved

Correspondence Reviewed or Signed

	Status
Nick Messina email (CMA)	Reviewed
QuitClaim Deed Map 3 Lot 13	Reviewed
FCC Letter Re: Wildlife Baiting	Reviewed
Sullivan Major Subdivision Land Gift	Reviewed
FCC Letter Regarding 132 North Broad Bay Road	Reviewed
Primex 2027 Workers' Compensation	Reviewed
Primex 2027 Property & Liability Program Rates	Reviewed
Health Trust Rates	Reviewed
Upper Bucknell Dam DES Letter	Reviewed
Profit & Loss	Reviewed
Carroll County Commissioners Agenda	Reviewed
Shoreland Permit 41 Packard Drive	Reviewed
Shoreland Permit Tax Map 42 Lot 12	Reviewed
Lakes Region Quotation	Reviewed
Advanced Diesel Inc. Quote	Reviewed
SAU 9 School Numbers	Reviewed

Babb moved to adjourn. Fall seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

_____ _____ _____

Leslie R. Babb Alan G. Fall Gary R. Williams