

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2021 JUL 19 AM 9:04  
*Cheryl A. D. Williams*

Freetown Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 2, 2021 –1:00pm  
Police Station Community Room  
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown

### Call to Order

Selectmen Matthews called the meeting to order at 1:00p. Selectmen Grunwald, Selectmen Zager, Chief of Police Carlton Abbott, Resident Lenny Gregoire, Administrative Assistant Lola Furtado and Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza were also present.

### Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. Discussion on coverage for signatures, calls, resident inquires etc. while in between Town Administrators.

Selectmen Matthews said he would come to Town Hall weekly or as needed to sign necessary document. There was a discussion on how to manage resident complaints. The Executive Assistant will collect information from residents and forward, as needed, to the Selectmen Chair or Department Head who can effectively address the issue at hand.

Selectmen Matthews asked that next steps to fill void in Town Administrator position be added to an upcoming agenda for further discussion.

### Board of Park Commissioners

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

2. Discussion on Town Beach and Boat Ramp operation issues, ways to mitigate them, and being open only to Freetown residents. Also, appoint one Selectmen to work with Chief of Police and Executive Assistant to create a plan to address these ongoing issues.

Selectmen Matthew noted people are destroying the Town Beach, leaving trash, running a jet ski business out of the beach putting swimmers at risk, there have been fist fights and arrests. Most trouble seems to be from non-residents. Selectmen Zager said the beach can get overcrowded, there are also parking issues. He has spoken with Police Officers and Town Counsel. Police have mentioned people put in at boat ramp with jet skis and meeting other people at the beach. One officer was on the beach and a women pulled up and turned off power and lost control of jet ski and glided right into the swim area where children were swimming. Selectmen Grunwald asked where is Lakeville with all of this? Chief Abbot said only public access point to the Great Pond is through Freetown, there are some

private launches in Lakeville. Lakeville has purchased a boat and have a presence on the water. Selectmen Grunwald suggested sitting down with Lakeville. Chief Abbott noted that the Town of Freetown entered into an agreement with Commonwealth of Massachusetts to manage the boat ramp in exchange for managing the ramp we can collect fees. We can increase those fees by requesting through state, these fees are for maintenance and enforcement. Selectmen Zager noted that per Town Accountant we have not received grants for the Boat Ramp so we can make Beach residents only. Selectmen Matthews noted there is a sticker for multiple areas and next season we should have a separate sticker for the beach. Per Town Clerk 23 nonresident stickers were sold for this season so those need to be honored. Carlton Abbott said Town of Freetown owns the property and if we are going to allow public to access the property, we need to be good stewards of the property. There is a bylaw for Board of Selectmen to oversee the beach written by Carlton Abbott, he also initiated the sticker program as a one-year fix 15 years ago. He agrees limiting to Freetown Residents is a good plan. Selectmen Matthews said he likes the idea of residents only and guests who would pay a fee. Chief Abbott also suggested that we have two Representatives and a Senator who may be able to get monies appropriated to offset the impact the State has put upon the Towns of Freetown and Lakeville. This could be used for maintenance, attendants etc. Selectmen Zager said it is \$805 revenue from stickers from out of towners. Police just caught out of towners dumping trash in the dumpster. People are coming down the sand dune so some barriers would be helpful. We have officers starting this weekend at the Beach and Boat Ramp for this weekend and next weekend. Chief Abbott said they cannot issue a parking ticket at the Boat Ramp as it is State owned property. Chief Abbott said there are very few boat ramps that have as many spaces as we do (40 spaces) others charge \$5-\$15. The Environmental Police are short staffed, so Freetown owns it. Perhaps having a kiosk, more staff, police detail will help. He spoke about the issues with New Bedford and not being able to enforce on parking on the New Bedford owned property on Middleboro Road. Chief Abbott is having discussions with them on this topic. Selectmen Grunwald asked if we have had any communication with them. Chief Abbott said David DeManche sent letters to Mayor and Water Dept in New Bedford and received no response. This year he has been in touch with them. Selectmen Zager said putting attendants is great, but people are not fearful of them but adding the Police officers may have an impact and then we can go back to attendants. Selectmen Grunwald asked if there was a gate. Chief Abbott said there is a gate at ramp and once spots are full it is supposed to be closed. There are so many issues from commercial enterprises, fires, fishing, swimming, excessive drinking, at the ramp. To park at the boat ramp you need to have a boat, whether it is kayak, jet ski, boat etc. however this is not effectively enforced.

Chief Abbotts suggestions to enforce are:

Beach – Residents only – need to have gatekeeper at beach

Boat Ramp – add more staff, focus them on 4 or 5 enforcement measures, parking, gate etc.

Selectmen Zager said for holiday weekends we should have officers. Chief Abbott said that shift will be difficult to fill. Selectmen Matthews said since its State property can we go to State Police? Chief Abbott said you would have to still pay them. Selectmen Matthews said tensions are high and we want to avoid anyone getting hurt. Selectmen Zager said we need to put something in place to help with this issue. He continued perhaps we can collaborate with Lakeville to share their resource of a boat. First 4 or 5 weekends of season have law enforcement be super aggressive and set the tone for the summer.

- Motion to make the Town Beach residents & out of town sticker holders + 4 guests. Now new stickers to out of town people. Individuals will be required to provide evidence of residence upon request was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Lu-Ann Souza noted that the Town Meeting had an article to combine the revolving fund for the boat ramp t be utilized for town beach as well. She also noted we just had attendant quit so we have no one at the beach. In order to attract more candidates, we need to consider raising the rate of pay.

Lenny Gregoire from Island Road said there seems to be non-residents coming in and trashing the beach. Carlton Abbott said they are running businesses out of the beach. Selectmen Matthews noted the jersey barriers were put in and now they are lifting their jet skis over the barriers. Selectmen Matthews would like to work with Lakeville to get assistance form the State for enforcement, mitigation of weeds and other issues on the pond.

Chief Abbott will write up a comprehensive document for this at the next meeting.

- Motion to appoint Selectmen Jared Zager to work with Chief Abbott and Executive Assistant to work together to make a plan to address the issues at the Town Beach and Boat Ramp was made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald at 1:58pm
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Please note: The Board may take up any other business to properly come before the Board that was not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before this meeting.

**Old Business:**

Potential discussion on pending items – action will not be taken at this meeting:

- Council on Aging Project Study
- Phone System Upgrades (Vertical phone system upgrade)

List of Documents/Exhibits used by the Board during this meeting:

- Agenda
- List of Town Administrator responsibilities needing coverage
- Email from Selectmen Zager regarding Town Beach not receiving grants
- Quote from ISP to purchase kiosk
- Informational sheet on ISP kiosk

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lu-Ann Souza".

Lu-Ann Souza

Executive Assistant