

**TOWN OF PEACHAM**  
**MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019  
**APPROVED**

Selectboard Members Present: Mike Heath, Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig  
Public: Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington,  
Tim Mckay, Mary Daly, John Reiss, Jock Gill, Lynne Lawson, David Jacobs, Ross Page, Barry Lawson

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:35pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. VAST-John Reiss
  - b. Rural cell service-Beatrice Ring
  - c. July 4th road closure-Beatrice Ring
  - d. Executive Session- Jeremy Withers
  - e. Portapotty at school-Thomas Galinat
  - f. Phone at dump-Thomas Galinat
3. VAST-John Reiss
  - a. Reiss explained that he wants VAST to stop trespassing on his driveway.
  - b. Mckay asked what it had to do with the town and Heath said that it's a private thing.
4. Rural cell service-Beatrice Ring
  - a. Ring presented information about the state asking towns to share the cost of rural cell coverage if they want.
  - b. Galinat sent the Selectboard the information in relation to a conversation about getting phone service to the dump and said that it would cost \$1,800/year. The town could put micro-towers in underserved areas like East Peacham Rd and it would work within a certain radius.
    - i. Mckay explained that it's 2G service and that the cell towers are left over from a contract the state had with a company that didn't do it.
    - ii. Mckay clarified that the cost is \$1,800/year/tower.
  - c. Galinat pointed out that having cell service in underserved areas, like Peacham Pond, could be beneficial to the road crew.
  - d. A hard phone line for the dump would cost \$1,500-\$2,000 to install.
    - i. Reiss thinks that the town would be better off paying a one-time installation fee than a yearly fee for x number of years.
  - e. Galinat agreed to find out more information.
5. July 4th road closure-Beatrice Ring
  - a. Ring explained that, although the July 4th event is now a town event and the July 4th committee doesn't need to ask for permission to close the roads, the Selectboard still needs to talk about it and possibly notice it.
  - b. There will be road closures on Bayley Hazen Rd from the Senturia house to the library and up Church Street to the fire station.
  - c. Galinat suggested that the town pay the road crew guys overtime hours out of the July 4th budget to help set up signs, just like last year.
  - d. Withers will plan on having the road crew help set up directional signs on July 3rd and lay the road closed signs out for use on the morning of the 4th.
6. Portapotty at school-Thomas Galinat
  - a. Jen Surat sent an email asking if the town would again be willing to pay for the portapotty at the school for the rest of the summer.
  - b. The town would cover the cost for June, July, and August as it did the past two years.
  - c. **Craig moved that the town pay for the portapotty at the school for the rest of the summer. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
7. Phone at dump-Thomas Galinat
  - a. Discussion ensued on how to get a phone line at the dump.
    - i. Craig suggested looking into bringing Charter down to the dump.
    - ii. Withers wondered if a satellite phone would work there.
    - iii. Gill suggested putting a solar panel and battery at the dump to power Charter service.
8. Energy Committee appointment
  - a. Gill put forth Bruce Westcott as an alternate for the Energy Committee through July 2020 after a resignation.
  - b. **Ring moved to appoint Bruce Westcott as an alternate on the Energy Committee until July 2020. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
9. Portapotty-Donald Moore Sr.
  - a. Galinat explained that Moore has VOWP (Vermont Offender Work Program) painting his barn and needs to provide the work crew with a portapotty. There is a shortage of portapotties for rent in the area and Moore would like to borrow the town's extra portapotty that's currently sitting at the dump.

- i. Galinat suggested that the town either rent it to Moore and have him clean it before it's returned or have Moore transport it to and from the cemetery for July 4th in lieu of payment.
  - b. Ring expressed concern about a private citizen getting something and Galinat wondered if it should be available for other residents to rent as well.
  - c. The Selectboard agreed to let Moore borrow the portapotty and have him transport it for the July 4th event.
- 10. Snow machines-Ross Page
  - a. Page said that there has been some damage on the trail going onto Devil's Hill and he would like permission to go onto town land to do some ditching and cut back brush to fix it.
    - i. The Selectboard wants to meet with Page on-site before making a decision.
      - a) Reiss would like that meeting to be open to the public.
  - b. Where they moved the snow machine trail out in the town forest near Cabot last year, Ross would like permission to clean up and take away the firewood that's out there. It's wood that the snowmobile club cut when they were putting the trail in and is currently on the town's log landing. There were no objections from the Selectboard.
- 11. House drainage from Newman to town catch basin-Lynne Lawson
  - a. Lawson, representing Gary Newman, explained that Newman wanted to move a drainage pipe coming from his basement so that it would discharge into the town's catch basin and no longer drain out onto the yard creating a swampy area.
  - b. Galinat mentioned that Newman's neighbor was allowed to tie into a town catch basin a few years ago.
  - c. Withers expressed concern for the town's liability if the water backs up into the house.
    - i. Galinat suggested that Newman write a letter for the records accepting all responsibility for any damages caused by tying into the catch basin.
    - ii. McKay asked if there was a lot of grade from the house down to the catch basin and Craig said yes.
  - d. Ring suggested that Newman, Newman's contractor, and Withers meet on-site to discuss the proposed plan and for Newman to write a letter stating that he will not hold the town liable.
  - e. Heath said that Newman could submit the letter to Galinat and that the Selectboard would vote on it at the next meeting.
- 12. Peacham Pavilion project-David Jacobs
  - a. Jacobs read information regarding the current status of the Peacham Pavilion project.
    - i. The information included feedback resulting from the letter that the Pavilion Group sent out and thoughts about resurrecting the Recreation Committee.
  - b. Ring wondered where it fit in with the Town Plan.
  - c. Galinat asked about plans for the money that was raised through fundraising and about the risk of money from the next Fall Fondo going towards another space if the Pavilion Project stalled too long.
    - i. Reiss asked how much money was in the fund and Jacobs answered \$5,000.
  - d. Discussion ensued on resurrecting the Recreation Committee.
    - i. Heath said that he is all for resurrecting the Recreation Committee and that it's long overdue.
    - ii. Galinat explained that there are some statutory guidelines on forming committees. If it's just a freehand committee, like the Pavilion Committee, there are no agendas, minutes, etc. If it's a true town committee, it would then fall under the Open Meeting Law and the Selectboard would have to establish a true resolution, define term length for individuals, and decide the number of individuals for the committee.
    - iii. Jacobs suggested that the Selectboard come up with a list of tasks for the Recreation Committee which might include things like town properties, baseball, soccer, archery, and lawn bowling.
      - a) Ring said that town events such as the Winter Carnival and July 4th could be included as well.
    - iv. **Craig moved to resurrect the Recreation Committee. Heath seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
      - a) Daly and Galinat volunteered to be on the committee and Jacobs will make suggestions for potential committee members.
    - v. Galinat said that at the next meeting the Selectboard will probably make appointments and, between then and now, they should decide on the number of committee members and term lengths.
  - e. Reiss said that he wants the pavilion to be on the green across from the fire station and discussion ensued on the restrictions that may have been placed on the land when it was deeded to the town.
- 13. Class 4 road discussion
  - a. The Selectboard found out that the May 1st start date for class 4 road maintenance is set by the town and not found in state statute.

- b. Galinat suggested that the Selectboard invite someone from the Agency of Transportation to a Selectboard meeting to get more information about the municipal roads permit specifications, the town's liability with increasing storm intensity due to climate change, and whether residents can maintain class 4 roads.
  - c. Discussion ensued on possible class 4 maintenance plans.
  - d. Heath would like to get traffic count hoses across the roads to see how much traffic the class 4 roads are actually seeing.
    - i. Withers said that the town could probably get them from NVDA.
  - e. The Selectboard will wait to make a decision until more data is available on how much the class 4 roads are actually travelled.
- 14. Highway Department update
  - a. The road crew got the culvert changed out on Peacham-Danville Road and the bill will be more than expected because of the amount of material that they ended up needing. Withers expects the project to cost upwards of \$20,000.
  - b. Withers made a recommendation to shim and overlay a 1400' section of the Peacham-Danville Road, which includes the section of road where the culvert was replaced.
    - i. Galinat explained that there is \$41,000 in retreatment and there is \$52,500 in the budget for the Aiken Farm Rd box culvert project that is likely to not happen this year. The total for the emergency culvert replacement costing \$20,000, the after-school program costing \$15,500, and the repaving costing \$27,000 is \$62,500. The budgeted amount of \$52,500 from the Aiken Farm Rd project would cover all but \$10,000 of the \$62,500 and the remaining \$10,000 could come out of retreatment.
    - ii. McKay suggested comparing the cost of repaving the 1,400' right now to the cost of adding it to next year's East Peacham Road paving project.
      - a) Withers explained that the estimate for next year's East Peacham Road paving project is \$310,000 and that he's expecting \$175,000 in paving grant money. He thinks that rebuilding the 1,400' on Peacham-Danville Road would cost \$500,000 and would require many engineers.
    - iii. **Craig moved that Withers hire someone to shim and overlay the 1,400' section of Peacham-Danville Road from the Monteiths to the town line as soon as possible without exceeding \$30,000. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
  - c. The retaining wall repair at the town garage is now done.
  - d. Heath asked about the archery discussion from the previous Selectboard meeting and Ring responded that they had decided that the liability would be too high.
- 15. Town Clerk update
  - a. Things are going very well in the Town Clerk's office.
  - b. Galinat will have to borrow another \$50,000. He did not end up borrowing money two weeks ago and the town was at \$41,000 prior to today's AP.
    - i. Ring asked if the town could go to two tax payments per year instead of one.
      - a) Galinat said that it is worth looking into. The town has chosen to build up a working capital fund to borrow us through and the budget is small enough to do that. In addition, everyone works together to schedule big payments for after taxes start coming in and, because of the small size of the town, tax bills are sent out really fast.
      - b) Galinat wondered which option was in the best interest of the residents.
      - c) Heath asked if the town could incentivize paying early.
  - c. Galinat is glad that the annual school district meetings are over because of the stress and extra work they put on the Town Clerk's office. The town will bill the school district for the cost of the election officials at \$24/person/day for a total of \$144.
- 16. Review and approve bills
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed and approved bills.
- 17. Review correspondence
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence.
- 18. Executive session
  - a. **Ring moved to enter executive session at 8:20pm. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
  - b. **Craig moved to come out of executive session at 8:45pm. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved. No action taken.**
- 19. Approve minutes
  - a. The Selectboard approved the April 17, 2019 as written.
  - b. The Selectboard approved the May 1, 2019 with minor grammatical corrections.
  - c. The Selectboard approved the June 6, 2019 with a correction to Becky Jensen's comments on archery at the town garage.
- 20. Adjourn
  - a. **Heath moved to adjourn. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.**