

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 5, 2020
APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present: Mike Heath, Peter Craig
Public: Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Jeffrey Berwick, Neil Monteith, Bruce Westcott, Ron Craig

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:30pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Fire Protection Regionalization and Feasibility Study
 - i. Berwick explained that Peacham has the opportunity to participate in a feasibility study as part of a Municipal Planning Grant being administered by NVDA for the regionalization of fire protective services.
 - ii. To become a member, Peacham would be required to provide a monetary contribution towards the matching funds necessary to complete the study.
 - iii. The outputs of the study will include: identification of strengths, weaknesses, and areas of duplication; maps of the study area; response time maps; and a financial forecast.
 - iv. Because the study will not address Peacham's problem, a lack of a volunteer workforce available 24/7, Berwick recommended that Peacham not join the study as a steering committee member. Berwick suggested that he meet with surrounding fire chiefs to work on ways to fill the gap by enhancing existing mutual aid agreements.
 - v. Discussion ensued.
 - vi. **P. Craig moved to not partake in the feasibility study. Heath seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
3. Selectboard appointment updates
 - a. Energy Committee
 - i. Westcott said that the Energy Committee is currently working with the Peacham Planning Commission and Alison Low at NVDA to develop and approve Peacham's Enhanced Energy Plan.
 - a) The plan will address: Peacham's legal standing to participate with the state in considering any energy plans the state would like to pursue with Peacham; developing an energy system for the future; updating and enhancing the energy section of the Town Plan; and helping Peacham contribute to the state's environmental goals.
 - ii. Heath explained that, at a recent Peacham Collaborators meeting, there was discussion by numerous organizations in Peacham about the possibility of joining the town's solar project. The organizations included the Peacham Library, Peacham Community Housing, Peacham Historical Association, Peacham Congregational Church, and East Peacham Baptist Church.
 - a) The bottom dollar number would be higher but the return would be greater.
 - b) Discussion ensued on potential locations for the array.
 - b. Fire Warden
 - i. Berwick gave the update on behalf of Fire Warden Aaron Morton.
 - ii. There were 40 burn permits issued last year and zero fires in Peacham.
 - iii. The fire warden is responsible for issuing burn permits and recording information about fires while on the scene.
 - iv. They plan on participating in a 50/50 grant this year to get new forest fire equipment and may budget for more equipment in 2021.
 - v. Berwick suggested raising the fire warden's stipend from \$150 to \$500 in the 2021 budget.
 - vi. Discussion ensued on how to make it easier for residents to request permits and for the fire warden to issue permits. Ideas included getting the fire warden a town cell phone and putting a permit application on the website that, once submitted by a resident, would be sent by email to both Morton and Berwick.
 - vii. Discussion ensued on the idea of paying the members of the fire department.
 - a) Berwick will get numbers together to present to the Selectboard.
4. Old business
 - a. Town Hall renovation/Town Hall ADA improvements
 - i. No update
 - b. Town solar project
 - i. Discussed during the Energy Committee update in agenda item three.
 - c. Cemetery administration
 - i. No update.
5. Highway Department update

- a. No update.
- 6. Town Clerk update
 - a. Town Clerk Thomas Galinat emailed and provided paper copies of an update to the Selectboard.
- 7. Approve minutes
 - a. The Selectboard approved the January 22, 2020 minutes as amended.
- 8. Review and approve bills
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed and approved bills.
- 9. Review correspondence
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence.
- 10. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Heath seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.**

Peacham Selectboard:




