

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone conference): Mike Heath, Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig
Public (all via phone conference): Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington,
Annette Lorraine, Neil Monteith, Harry Vann, Erin Lane, David Edwards, Ron Craig, Rusty Barber,
Rick Scholes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:33pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The road crew has been focusing on spring maintenance and keeping the roads as passible as possible.
 - b. In response Covid-19 concerns, Withers said that the highway crew should still be working and that they are maintaining a safe distance from each other.
 - i. The road crew has been wiping down handles, steering wheels, mics, and levers.
 - ii. Withers has encouraged his crew members to bring up any concerns they have.
 - iii. Vann will drop some homemade hand sanitizer off at the garage.
 - c. P. Craig pointed out that someone has been pruning apple trees at the bottom of Ewell Mill Road and piling brush in the ditch. Withers will go look at it.
4. Town Clerk update
 - a. Ring read an update from Town Clerk Thomas Galinat.
 - i. The Town Clerk's Office is closed to the public and Galinat and Washington are both working primarily from home.
 - ii. Because the municipal software is now on the cloud, Galinat and Washington have been able to start the enormous project of digitizing the land record index.
 - iii. Galinat has continued to work with attorneys to make land records available.
5. Covid-19 update
 - a. Monteith explained that there hasn't been much activity since the volunteers were organized. The first food delivery is scheduled for April 3rd.
 - i. Discussion ensued on Vermont's response to Covid-19.
 - b. Covid-19 Fund
 - i. Edwards would like more time to figure out the distribution criteria and to put together an informal committee.
 - ii. Galinat wrote that he is more than happy to administer the funds but that an outside group of non-biased members should run the fund.
 - iii. Edwards will present more at the next Selectboard meeting.
 - c. Outdoor Club help with Covid-19 response
 - i. Ring sent a note out to the Outdoor Club about entertaining people while they are all at home.
 - a) Peacham's Health Officer encouraged the Outdoor Club to wait until the stay-home directive has been lifted.
 - ii. Lane suggested that the Outdoor Club members individually work on describing trails and outdoor sites in Peacham for an eventual booklet.
6. Emergency Management Ordinance adoption
 - a. Heath read an Executive Order signed by Governor Peter Shumlin in 2012 which designated NIMS as the basis for all emergency management in Vermont. Heath explained that FEMA recommended adopting an Emergency Management Ordinance and urged the rest of the Selectboard to adopt the model ordinance provided by Chip Deasy, once references to a town charter were removed.
 - b. Lorraine explained that Peacham already had everything it needed to qualify for state and FEMA reimbursement and that the model ordinance was not appropriate for a slow-moving emergency such as Covid-19.
 - c. Ring stated that she would not vote for the model ordinance and that there was already a procedure in place through Peacham's Emergency Management Plan and the Delegation of Authority appendix.
 - d. Discussion ensued.
 - e. No action taken.
7. Front entry to Town Hall-Rusty Barber
 - a. Barber emailed the Selectboard two ideas for a new covered entry to the front of Town Hall. The handrail was crushed by snow falling off the roof.
 - b. The Selectboard reviewed the drawings and discussion ensued.
8. Paint Town Hall-Katelyn Langham
 - a. Heath read an email from Peacham resident Katelyn Langham who offered to do some painting inside Town Hall before her wedding reception in the gym.
 - b. Discussion ensued on the town's liability.
 - c. The Selectboard is amenable to the idea but needs to work out the details. Discussion will continue at the next Selectboard meeting.

9. 2020 Green-Up Day
 - a. The state has rescheduled Green-Up Day for May 30th.
10. Summer mowing for town properties
 - a. The Selectboard will wait to review the mowing contract from VOWP and discuss at the next Selectboard meeting.
11. Grant writers in town
 - a. Ring knows of two people in town who are experienced at writing grants and are willing to be hired as grant writers if needed and if there is money in the budget.
12. Washington Electric Co-op permit
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed a permit submitted by Washington Electric Co-op to run a new 7200 volt electric line to serve the new Nick Kendall camp on Martin's Pond Lane.
 - b. P. Craig went out and looked at the site and said that it would be unobtrusive.
 - i. The town does not maintain the section of road it will be on.
 - c. **P. Craig moved to approve the permit for Washington Electric Co-op to put in a new 7200 volt system on Martin's Pond Lane. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
13. Cemetery burials
 - a. Green burials
 - i. Heath explained that green burials are legal through the State of Vermont.
 - ii. R. Craig said that green burials are not permitted by the Peacham Cemetery bylaws.
 - iii. The Selectboard would like the Cemetery Preservation Committee to make a recommendation on green burials.
 - b. Burial accounting
 - i. The Selectboard would like the Cemetery Preservation Committee to make a recommendation on whether or not payments for burials should come through the town rather than going directly to the gravedigger.
14. Recommendations for the committees and groups appointed after town meeting
 - a. Washington will work with Ring to send out group emails to all the committees in town so that they can communicate with each other.
15. 2020 Selectboard appointments
 - a. NVDA Representatives
 - i. **Ring nominated Bruce MacLean as NVDA Representative for Peacham. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Appointed.**
 - b. Planning Commission
 - i. **Ring nominated Rick Scholes to a three-year term on the Planning Commission. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Appointed.**
 - ii. **Ring nominated Jock Gill to a three-year term, Marilyn Magnus to a three-year term, Bruce MacLean to a two-year term, Anna Rubin to a one-year term, and Tyler LaFontaine as an alternate for a one-year term on the Planning Commission. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Appointed.**
16. Old business
 - a. Town Hall renovations/ADA improvements
 - i. No update.
 - b. Town solar project
 - i. No update.
17. Approve minutes
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2020 Regular Meeting and the March 26, 2020 Emergency Meeting as written. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
18. Review and approve bills
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed the bills and agreed that P. Craig would sign all of the warrants in person.
19. Review correspondence
 - a. No correspondence present.
20. Executive session for personnel
 - a. **P. Craig moved to enter executive session for personnel at 8:04pm. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:36pm.
 - c. No action taken.
21. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Ring seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 4/15/20.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

