

# TOWN OF PEACHAM

## MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Mike Heath, Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig  
Public (all via phone/video conference): Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Neil Monteith, Ron Craig, Jeff Berwick, Henry Pearl

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:33pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Executive session for personnel
    - i. Moved to agenda item 17.
  - b. Permission for two events on town property-PTF
    - i. No PTF members in attendance.
  - c. Bike lanes in Danville
    - i. Pearl explained that there has been an ongoing project in Danville to connect the rail trail to the school driveway and the ball fields via bike lanes and to get bikes safely into Danville. As a trial, Dubois & King will chalk two temporary bike lanes to create a temporary one-lane road. The chalk will last for one to two months and there will be an informational open house on July 18th from 12:30-2:00.
    - ii. Discussion ensued on the possibility of extending the bike lanes to Peacham.
      - a) Heath pointed out that narrowing the road would slow down traffic and make it safer for bikers and pedestrians.
      - b) Ring would like input from some of the avid bikers in Peacham.
      - c) The Selectboard will wait to see how it goes in Danville.
3. Highway department update
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed an email update from Road Foreman Jeremy Withers.
  - b. Maintenance is going well and, due to the dry weather, Withers has been strategically grading and keeping an eye on the chloride budget. The culvert budget has been used up.
4. Maple Tree Lane/County Road-Matt Kempton
  - a. Galinat explained that several years ago, Kempton met with Withers and VTrans' Shauna Clifford about moving the road at Maple Tree Lane and County Road to make a safer intersection. Kempton is willing to help move the road with his excavator.
  - b. Withers' email detailed two options for moving the road. Option #1 would cost \$13,600 and option #2 would cost \$9,900. Both options would require a 50-foot culvert.
    - i. Galinat suggested not making a decision until more was known about the education rate and the state highway aid.
    - ii. Discussion ensued on the cost of the project and the excess from the afternoon childcare program. The childcare program ended early in the spring and it is unclear whether or not it will be offered in the fall.
    - iii. Heath said it was wiser to budget the project for next year and Ring agreed.
  - c. R. Craig thought that the Kemptons' driveway should come out onto the new section of road and not the existing road.
5. Town Clerk update
  - a. There is \$20,000 in the General Ledger and \$33,000 in the bank.
    - i. After the next payroll, Galinat plans to borrow the first \$50,000 off the TAN.
    - ii. Due to upcoming payments on the Fire Truck and a 10-wheeler, as well as the delay in tax billing due to the delay in getting the education rate, the town will have to borrow more than usual.
  - b. Discussion ensued on whether to pay for reclaiming East Peacham Road out of the budgeted Paving 2020 line or the Retreatment Fund.
    - i. The Selectboard agreed to pay Pike out of the Paving 2020 line and not out of Retreatment.
  - c. Galinat consolidated three collections of town reports and now has two copies of every year's town report since 1922.
6. Review of House Bill S.344
  - a. Since it was enacted, it is now called Act 102.
  - b. As a response to Covid, Act 102 gives the Selectboard the authority to lower the tax rate, waive interest and penalty on delinquent taxes, and change the timeline for tax collection.
    - i. Galinat brought this to the attention of the Selectboard for a decision at the next Selectboard meeting, which is the latest the decision should be made.
  - c. Heath asked if there are any items in the budget that have been affected by Covid.
    - i. Galinat explained that Town Clerk Fee revenue is down because people have not been charged for remote land record assistance due to the risk involved and that the fees for GoToMeeting and Google Suite were not budgeted for. Galinat expects to see more of the affects of Covid in next year's budget.
7. Covid-19 response update
  - a. Discussion ensued on the number of positive cases in Peacham.



- i. The Vermont Department of Health's online map shows that there have been 1-5 positive cases but, due to HIPAA regulations, the names have not been released.
    - ii. Monteith will see if the Health Officer has the authority to find out more about the positive cases which may be helpful to Peacham's emergency responders.
  - b. There is still \$202.76 owed to the town for food reimbursements.
    - i. Washington will send out new statements and include information on the Covid-19 Fund for those who are having trouble paying due to Covid.
- 8. Adopt Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)-Neil Monteith
  - a. **P. Craig moved to adopt the new LEMP that was produced by Neil Monteith. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
  - b. Monteith will take it to Heath for a signature and then send it to Bruce Melendy.
- 9. Dry Hydrant-Jeff Berwick
  - a. Berwick explained that Ian and Gretchen Boswell approached the Fire Department about putting in a wet hydrant and expanding their pond to increase water supply.
  - b. There is not a lot of water in the Thaddeus Stevens Road area during winter and Berwick said that many people would benefit from it.
  - c. The original plan has changed and Berwick is waiting on the revised plan and the new estimate. Berwick expects the new estimate to be around \$14,000.
    - i. There is up to \$10,000 in grant money available from the VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force and then the town and the Boswells would split the remaining cost.
    - ii. There is only \$500 in the budget, but other Fire Department expenditures are down.
  - d. The Selectboard agreed that it was a good idea and that Berwick should proceed.
    - i. Berwick will come back to the Selectboard with the final numbers and confirmation that the grant will be awarded.
- 10. July 4th update
  - a. The fireworks are scheduled for Friday, July 3rd at 9:30pm.
  - b. The children's bike parade is scheduled for Saturday, July 4th at 10:00am.
  - c. Following the bike parade, fire trucks with banners will be going through town to children's houses to throw candy.
- 11. Dump maintenance update
  - a. There have not been many dump cards purchased since they started being sold again.
  - b. Galinat will post on Facebook letting residents know that they are available again and will make sure Transfer Station Attendant Amber Lowell can get some dump cards to Marty's.
- 12. Selectboard appointment 2020
  - a. Tree Board
    - i. **Ring moved to appoint Rodney Reis to the Tree Board. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Appointed.**
- 13. Old business
  - a. East Peacham Road paving
    - i. No update.
  - b. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
    - i. Galinat will ask Withers to get rid of the broken posts from the metal handrail.
  - c. Personnel Policy update
    - i. No update.
  - d. Town solar policy
    - i. No update.
- 14. Approve minutes
  - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from June 17, 2020. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 15. Review and approve bills
  - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the bills. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
  - b. Ring will go sign the warrants in the Town Office.
- 16. Review correspondence
  - a. No correspondence present.
- 17. Executive session for personnel
  - a. **P. Craig moved to enter executive session for personnel. Ring seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 7:44pm.**
  - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:10pm.
  - c. No action taken
- 18. Adjourn
  - a. **Ring moved to adjourn. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 7/15/2020.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

