

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Mike Heath, Peter Craig, Beatrice Ring
Public (all via phone/video conference): Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers,
Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Stanley Welch, John Reiss, David Jacobs, Rick Scholes, Annette
Lorraine, Bob Hansen, 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. Executive session for litigation-Peacham Listers
 - i. Moved to agenda item 15.
 - b. Town Gym
 - i. Moved to agenda item 14.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The Road Crew has been ditching, putting in culverts, and grading.
 - b. The loader and backhoe recently needed repairs and are both back on the road.
 - c. Withers received the crosswalk signs and has been in contact with Mel Reis about how to prevent them from being stolen.
4. Lanesboro Road upgrade
 - a. Discussion ensued on the possibility of upgrading Lanesboro Road for better access to Peacham Pond for road maintenance.
 - i. P. Craig said it would cost over \$1,000,000 to upgrade it to a class 3 road.
 1. P. Craig and Ring thought that it wouldn't be worth it if it was that expensive.
 2. Lorraine and Reiss thought that it wouldn't cost that much.
 - ii. Withers explained it would be a challenge to get 6- or 10-wheelers through if it was a class 4 road, but that upgrading to a class 4 could be a place to start.
 - iii. Lorraine thought that it could be done over time and also suggested the alternative option of keeping Hookerville Cutoff passable during the winter.
 - iv. Reiss was in favor of the road being upgraded to class 3 and said that he'd like to see Lanesboro Road opened up rather than East Peacham Road paved.
 - v. Heath pointed out the benefit of better access to Groton State Forest and said that he wanted a better idea of what it would entail.
 - vi. Galinat said that, by upgrading the road to either class 4 with a maintenance plan or class 3, the properties along the road could be subdivided and developed which would increase the grand list and tax revenue.
 1. Covid and climate refugees could benefit from more available, accessible properties.
 2. It could also bridge the gap between the village and Peacham Pond residents.
 - vii. Withers, Scholes, and Reiss plan to walk the road to get a better idea of what it would entail.
5. Town Clerk update
 - a. The town is at -\$37,000 and Galinat plans to borrow money before mailing AP checks.
 - b. Tax bills went out and taxes have started coming in.
 - c. To prepare for potential shortfalls in property tax revenue and to remain mindful of the difficulties caused by Covid, Galinat would like to start planning budget sessions with the Selectboard and Withers.
 - d. Galinat has started planning for the general election on November 3, which is the day after property taxes are due. The Town Clerk's Office will be extremely busy during that time.
6. Covid-19 response update
 - a. No update.
7. Mowing in cemetery
 - a. Ring explained that the Cemetery Committee decided that the cemetery should be mowed at least once more before the end of the year. Having it mown will make it look nice for the fall and will make it easier to mow in the spring.
 - b. Galinat said that there was enough money in the budget to have it mowed twice more.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed.
 - c. P. Craig explained it hasn't regularly because the town contracted with the corrections department and the work crews haven't mowed during Covid.
8. Zoning violation update
 - a. Hansen sent Tony Burrington a notice of violation because the number of cars on his property on Old County Road put him out of compliance with Peacham's zoning bylaws.
 - b. Burrington has until October 1st to come into compliance and recently applied for a zoning permit to build a 2-bay shop and office in which to operate his auto rehab and repair business.

- i. Hansen is referring the application to the DRB.
 - ii. If the DRB denies the application, the court may make Burrington move the cars.
 - c. Jacobs would like to see the DRB schedule the hearing as soon as possible.
 - i. Hansen explained that all of the noticing requirements for DRB hearings need to be met.
- 9. Healthcare opt out policy
 - a. During the interview process for the new Road Crew member, Heath learned from VLCT that the town's current healthcare opt out and reimbursement policy is not in compliance with statute. The opt out amount paid out in lieu of health insurance should be the same for every employee.
 - b. Discussion ensued.
 - i. The Selectboard reviewed opt out data from other Vermont towns.
 - ii. Galinat presented a list of scenarios of current options and suggested options.
 - iii. Ring suggested that Heath, Galinat, and VLCT's Jill Muir participate in a call to discuss the details further.
- 10. Old business
 - a. Stump dump
 - i. Withers and P. Craig plan to meet at the Transfer Station to pick a location for the stump dump.
 - b. Public nuisance issue
 - i. No update.
 - c. Personnel Policy update
 - i. VLCT's Jill Muir confirmed that she is reviewing the current Personnel Policy.
 - d. Town solar project
 - i. Discussion ensued on a site for the town solar project.
 - 1. Galinat suggested both the roller barn and the cemetery land that is currently being farmed by Wes Davis. The cemetery land could be used for both solar panels and green burials.
 - 2. R. Craig suggested the other cemetery land that is not being farmed and is unusable for the cemetery.
 - 3. Heath pointed out that the site needs to be close enough to an existing power line so that the project does not require any new poles.
- 11. Approve minutes
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from August 19, 2020. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 12. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Ring moved to approve the bills. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. P. Craig will go sign warrants in the Town Office.
- 13. Review correspondence
 - a. No correspondence present.
- 14. Town Gym
 - a. Ring plans to communicate with the residents who are currently interested in using the gym in order to figure out procedures for gym use during Covid-19.
 - b. The gyms users will use the calendar on the town website for scheduling.
- 15. Executive session for litigation
 - a. **P. Craig moved to enter executive session for litigation. Ring seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 7:34pm.**
 - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:00pm.
 - c. **P. Craig moved to have Rick Scholes represent the Town of Peacham for the legal matters for the Board of Civil Authority. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 16. Executive session for personnel
 - a. **P. Craig moved to enter executive session for personnel. Ring seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 8:02pm.**
 - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:54pm.
 - c. **P. Craig moved to hire the individual that was agreed upon during the executive session for the open position at the Peacham Highway Department. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 17. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Ring seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 9/16/20.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

