

TOWN OF PEACHAM

MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Michael Heath, Peter Craig, Beatrice Ring
Public (all via phone/video conference): Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Ron Miller, Jeff Lane, Laurie Kozar, Neil Monteith, Allison Webster, Dave Stauffer, Tim Mckay, Bruce Westcott, John Reiss

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Michael Heath at 6:32pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Town mowing in 2021
 - i. Prior to 2020 and Covid-19, town-wide mowing was performed by the Department of Corrections' work crew. In 2020 the mowing was done by local mowing services.
 - ii. The Selectboard would like Town Clerk Thomas Galinat to get quotes for 2021 town mowing in case the work crew continues to be unavailable due to Covid.
 - b. Town soccer field request
 - i. Andrea Kane would like permission to use the town soccer field again in 2021 to teach first aid and CPR courses.
 - ii. The Selectboard agreed that the 2020 courses were unobtrusive, helped beautify the soccer field, and that Kane should be given permission again for 2021.
 - a) Heath will notify Kane.
 - c. Car parked at Ewell Mill Park
 - i. Discussion ensued on what to do about the car that has been parked for a while at Ewell Mill Park.
 - a) Craig will contact the owners of the car.
 - d. Stop sign in South Peacham
 - i. Discussion ensued on the correct procedure for putting in a new stop sign in South Peacham and whether or not it is appropriate for a thru road.
 - a) Ring will look into it further.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. It has been a slow winter so far and all of the equipment is running well.
 - b. The Road Crew has been working on repainting the interior of the Highway Garage.
 - c. Withers would like to remind residents that plowing and snow blowing onto town roads is illegal and creates hazardous driving conditions.
4. Town Clerk update
 - a. Town Clerk not present.
5. 2020 unexpended funds
 - a. Will wait to discuss with the Town Treasurer.
6. 2021 Town Meeting
 - a. The Selectboard members will review the recording of VLCT's Australian ballot training.
 - b. Absentee ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in Peacham.
 - c. Anyone who wants to be elected for an open town officer position will have to fill out a consent form to be included on the ballot.
7. Committee updates
 - a. Conservation Commission
 - i. The Conservation Commission hasn't met or done any work in the past year.
 - ii. The Selectboard may try and recruit new members.
 - iii. Washington will put the Conservation Commission bylaws on the town website.
 - b. Tree Board
 - i. Tree Board Chair Laurie Kozar gave a presentation on the activity of the Tree Board.
 - a) The presentation will be recorded with these minutes.
8. Church septic system
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed a proposed maintenance agreement from the church regarding the church joining the town's septic system.
 - i. Discussion ensued on the details of the agreement.
 - ii. Mckay and Westcott helped explain the breakdown of the potential shared costs.
 - b. Ring will ask an attorney to review the proposed maintenance agreement before it is put into place.
 - c. Reiss thought that the plan violated the separation of church and state.
9. USDA RESP funding
 - a. The idea of using grant money to install batteries at the school was brought up at the last Selectboard meeting.
 - i. Discussion ensued on whether or not the town could apply for grant money to be used at the school, which is owned by the Peacham School District.
10. Old business
 - a. Australian ballot past 2021

- i. The Selectboard discussed the possibility of extending the use of Australian ballot beyond 2021 and decided to wait for voter turnout numbers from this year before proposing the idea to the town.
 - b. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
 - i. Craig is working on getting the drawing to put out to bid.
 - c. Keeper of the Pound search
 - i. No update.
 - d. Transfer Station property lines
 - i. Heath was advised by an attorney that adverse possession does not affect municipal property but that there may be a concern about liability. The next step would be hiring a surveyor to verify the property lines and determine if encroachment on town property is occurring.
 - ii. Because nothing can be done until the snow melts, the discussion will be tabled until the spring.
11. Approve minutes
- a. December 16, 2020
 - i. **Craig moved to approve the minutes from December 16, 2020 as written by the Selectboard Clerk. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. December 30, 2020 Special Meeting
 - i. **Ring moved to accept the minutes of the December 30, 2020 Special Meeting as written by the Selectboard Clerk. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
12. Review and approve bills
- a. **Craig moved to approve the bills and make payments as necessary. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
13. Review correspondence
- a. The Selectboard reviewed the 2020 Equalization Study Results received from the Vermont Department of Taxes.
14. Adjourn
- a. **Ring moved to adjourn. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 1/20/21.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


