

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
APPROVED

Selectboard Members (via phone/video conference): Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public (via phone/video conference): Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers,
Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Bob Hansen, Dave Stauffer, John Reiss, Mark Elliot, Ron Craig,
Frank Miller, Patrice McDonough, Jacob Thomas, Steven Engle

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 6:30pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Farm Grant Fund overview-Dave Stauffer
 - i. Stauffer gave an overview of the transparency of Peacham's Farm Grant Fund. He explained that he speaks annually at the end of Town Meeting about the availability of Farm Support Fund grant money. This year's applications are currently in the Town Office and the committee will make final decisions on Saturday. In the past, none of the grant recipients have asked for information on the other grant recipients.
 - ii. To aid in transparency, Stauffer offered to either give a rundown of the grant recipients at the next Selectboard meeting, post the results on the town's posting sites, or make the information available by request.
 - a) Browne would prefer not to have the Selectboard involved at all because the funds are not town money. He suggested that Stauffer check with the fund's administrator to see what other towns do about posting the results.
 - b) Stauffer will make the grant recipient information available by request at the Town Office.
 - iii. Browne recommended including the availability of the fund in the Town Report.
 - iv. Vermont Conservation Fund requires that the money go to the town and not the recipients directly. The town then writes checks to the recipients.
 - v. Stauffer's term on the Farm Grant Committee will end soon and he will be replaced by another member of Peacham's Conservation Commission.
 - b. Town Gym request-Frank Miller
 - i. Miller requested the use of the Town Gym for a tai chi instructor training on July 13th. There would be 11 participants in the gym which would allow for 6-foot spacing. A Covid release form would be signed by all of the participants. If the weather is nice, they would prefer to be outside on the tennis court.
 - ii. The Selectboard agreed to let Miller use the gym for the training as long as up-to-date Covid guidelines are monitored and followed.
 - c. Personnel Policy
 - i. Not discussed.
 - d. Concerns about signage and stump in the village-Steve Engle
 - i. See agenda item 7.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. Withers is interested in splitting the cost of Kold-Flo crack sealant equipment with the Town of Danville, which would be roughly \$2,000 for each town. The towns would split the cost of the equipment, but not the cost of the materials. The sale on the equipment ends on June 30th.
 - i. P. Craig recommended that Withers and the Road Foreman in Danville put an agreement on paper for the Selectboards of both towns to sign.
 - a) The Selectboard and Withers agreed.
 - b. The asphalt in the road connecting the paved road in the center of the village to Church Street will be removed and replaced with gravel. The road should be less rough and easier to maintain.
 - c. The road crew is working on summer maintenance.
 - d. Browne asked why the proposal for changing the intersection of County Road and Maple Tree Lane isn't to take out the V intersection and make it a T where it exists now.
 - i. Withers explained that it doesn't come to a very good T there, that there is a power pole that the power company would have to move, and that there are trees that would need to be removed.
 - e. Regarding the discussion of Worcester Road, Browne learned that the Danielsons are still planning on moving forward with the planned work once everyone is vaccinated. Browne would like on-site meetings with Withers, the contractor, Shane Stevenson, the Danielsons and Alfred Dedam to look at it again before any work is done.
 - i. Stevenson assured Withers by phone that he is not planning on doing any work before meeting with the town.
 - ii. Browne and Withers will coordinate the meetings.
4. Stop sign in South Peacham
 - a. Withers is ready to put the stop sign in as soon as he gets the go-ahead from the Selectboard.

- b. P. Craig doesn't think it will make a difference in the speeding issue and explained that the intersection used to be a two-way stop. A previous Road Foreman made many changes to road signs that may need to be addressed if this stop sign is put in.
 - c. Browne expressed interest in putting in the stop sign and making it a four-way stop since the only people that currently don't have to stop are the ones coming down the hill.
 - d. Ring explained that the residents in the area are in favor of it and recommended trying it out to see if it makes a difference.
 - i. Browne agreed.
 - e. Withers will move forward with putting the stop sign in and getting the state to paint the lines.
5. State of Vermont wastewater initiative
- a. Thomas has looked into wastewater planning in the village and reviewed a wastewater analysis that was done by Stone Environmental in 2010. The analysis was paid for by a Department of Environmental Conservation Engineering Planning Advance, which does not get repaid unless the plan is implemented. An Engineering Planning Advance enables a town to get a plan in-hand and then decide how best to move forward before spending any money. Peacham is still eligible to apply for planning advance money and the state has put together flyers and workbooks detailing the process.
 - i. A lot of the wastewater in the village is currently handled by three major leech fields and many no-longer conforming wastewater systems on smaller lots. The fear is that one or more of the larger systems may fail or that any of the outdated smaller systems may fail.
 - ii. An engineering plan could come up with a potential solution for the existing systems as well as explore expanding the capacity for economic development.
 - b. The Selectboard expressed interest in going forward a few steps to learn more about how much it would cost to address the public areas in town.
 - i. The next steps would be to form a wastewater committee of stakeholders and to apply for planning advance money.
 - ii. Changes to the wastewater section of the Town Plan would also have to be started.
 - c. Thomas will touch base with Jock Gill and the Planning Commission to get it started, but is not committed to being on the committee.
 - i. Browne recommended that the first chair of the committee be someone from the Planning Commission.
6. Burrington zoning violation update
- a. Hansen explained that Burrington's relatives hired All Metals Recycling to salvage the cars that are causing Burrington to be in violation. Vince Chiorgno, the state salvage yard enforcement officer, will do an inspection at the end of the month and would like to see all of the cars gone.
 - b. Hansen will follow up on information he received from All Metals that some of the cars are marked "no move".
 - c. Hansen would like to see Chiorgno take a firm line and enforce if there are still unregistered cars there at the end of the month.
7. Concerns about signage and stump in the village
- a. Engle is concerned about the effect of years of neglect with the village signage. He mentioned the faded and yellowing Peacham village signs at the north and south ends of the village; the lack of Peacham village signs at the east and west ends of the village; the rust streak on the Parker ballfield sign; the broken glass pane, faded wording, and mildew on the Caledonia Schoolhouse sign on the green; the rusted green and white Bayley-Hazen Road sign in the village center; the bent and rusty directional signs in the village center; the rotted post that the Post Office sign is on that is being held together at the top with a coat hanger; the Peacham established in 1779 sign that has a corner that looks like it's been gnawed off; the Peacham Town Office sign which is mounted on the North wall of the building and can't be viewed by anybody who's not facing it; the location of the school zone sign going northbound being within a few feet of the entrance of the school; and the lack of a school zone sign going southbound. He thinks that Peacham can do better and he is willing to help.
 - i. Engle agreed to put together a group to discuss options and come back to the Selectboard with recommendations and cost estimates.
 - b. Engle is concerned that a tree stump is preventing people from taking decent pictures of the church and wondered if the town could provide an alternative to the stump.
 - i. P. Craig explained that, although the stump is in the town's right-of-way, it is on private property and is not posing any danger or safety issue. The town would need the property owners' permission to remove it. In addition, the stump is full of concrete.
 - ii. Engle had been informed that the town has been considering options for an alternative to the stump. The Selectboard was not aware of that plan.
8. July 4th update
- a. This year's 4th of July celebration will include a tractor parade, lunchtime food trucks, and a takeout pulled pork dinner. There will also be fireworks on July 2nd.
 - b. Due to Covid-related concerns, there will not be a contra dance, firehouse games, a ghost walk, or historic house.
9. Peacham Pond Greeter Program funding request decision
- a. The Selectboard discussed the request for \$1,110 to help pay for the 2021 Peacham Pond Greeter Program.

- b. **Browne moved to give \$1,110 to the greeter program for this year. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 10. Used porta-potty: bid opening
 - a. The town received one bid from Pat Blake for \$25.
 - b. **P. Craig moved to accept the bid. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 11. Approve minutes
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2021 as presented by the Selectboard Clerk. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 12. Review and approve bills
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the bills and pay them in a timely manner. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. P. Craig suggested that the Selectboard start a discussion on resuming in-person meetings.
 - i. Browne and Ring agreed that it was a great idea. The Selectboard members will individually start coming up with a plan for discussion at the next meeting, which will still be over zoom.
 - ii. Ring pointed out that the meetings over zoom had higher attendance than in-person meetings and Browne suggested continuing zoom meetings with the option to attend in-person.
- 13. Review correspondence
 - a. The Selectboard discussed a request from Patrice McDonough on behalf of Sundays in Peacham. The Sundays in Peacham Committee is applying for a grant from Ben & Jerry's and would like to use the town's Federal ID number as a town-sponsored event.
 - i. The Selectboard approved the request.
 - b. P. Craig got a message from the Transfer Station Attendant about the status of the mask requirement at the Transfer Station.
 - i. Discussion ensued.
 - a) P. Craig was in favor of lifting the mask requirement for people who are vaccinated since they would be following the current recommendations and they would be outside.
 - b) Browne recommended a phone call to NEKWMD to ask for guidance.
 - c) R. Craig pointed out that it is a town facility and up to the town to make that decision.
 - ii. The Selectboard agreed that P. Craig would call NEKWMD for guidance and that he would then make the decision.
- 14. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 6/2/21.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


