

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, September 1, 2021  
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Peter Craig, Richard Browne  
Public: Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Janie Carle, Dave Stauffer, Jock Gill

1. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair of the Selectboard Peter Craig at 7:00pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Planning request/updates and energy update-Jock Gill
    - i. The Planning Commission and a group of prior planners would like to meet with the Selectboard to discuss the big picture of what planning in Peacham should be.
      - a) The discussion will be on the agenda of the September 15, 2021 Selectboard meeting.
    - ii. There is a signed Letter of Intent for the proposed solar array in South Peacham and the hope is to have it active in the second half of 2022. Gill is trying to get Green Mountain Power to provide a third of the panels for low-income residents.
    - iii. There is an email regarding wastewater treatment that may be of interest for the lots that are too small for new systems.
      - a) Gill will resend the email to the Selectboard.
    - iv. There are development grants available through NVDA that require a 10% match that may be of interest to the town.
      - a) Gill will get more information and email it to the Selectboard.
  - b. Ewell Mill Park and Worcester Cemetery-Dave Stauffer
    - i. Stauffer has been the caretaker for Ewell Mill Park and would like to be the lead person for purchasing a sign for the park using the \$500 that was donated for it.
      - a) The Selectboard agreed that he could take the lead on purchasing the sign and Galinat pointed out that the sign was intended to be designed in collaboration with Peacham Historical Association.
      - b) Stauffer would also like to make a map of the trails from a plot plan and install a kiosk for paper copies of the maps.
    - ii. The work crew that mows the town's properties used to mow Worcester Cemetery, but there were issues accessing the cemetery and getting a mower in. Stauffer went and weed whacked it a couple of months ago, accessing the cemetery from Dedam's property. The grass in the cemetery grows slowly and Stauffer plans on continuing to maintain it.
  - c. Gym procedures-Thomas Galinat
    - i. Due to the concern of the uptick of Covid cases, Galinat wanted to check in and see if the current gym procedure should continue as is. Currently gym users check out keys per use and there are not any mask requirements or Covid restrictions.
      - a) Discussion ensued
      - b) There are a couple of events coming up in the gym and the organizers of the events can ask attendees to be masked.
      - c) The Selectboard agreed that there wouldn't be any changes to the procedure yet, as the current process is consistent with guidance from the state. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
3. Highway Department update
  - a. There have been a few equipment issues in the past few weeks.
    - i. The truck that is about to be traded in needs a new radiator and some touch-up work before the trade in. It is currently at Clark's Truck Center.
    - ii. The other 10-wheeler was out for repair but it just got back.
    - iii. The grader had some issues but was just fixed.
  - b. The Road Crew did the berm removal in the village to try and get the water off the road before it gets to Laurie Kozar's house.
  - c. The survey for the relocation of the intersection of County Road and Maple Tree Lane is almost complete.
    - i. Because it is now beyond the 60 days since the initial hearing, the Selectboard plans to hold another hearing on September 15, 2021 at 6:30pm and then make a decision at its regular meeting that day.
    - ii. Discussion ensued on the need to consult with an attorney on the legal process.
      - a) Galinat will contact Toby Balivet to see if he's willing to do it.
  - d. Withers received a request to plow further up Penny Street to the Biggar's house during the winter.
    - i. The 6-wheeler would be the truck used and Withers would have to put in a new turnaround at Biggar's house.
      - a) Withers didn't think plowing further up to the next house was the answer.
    - ii. Galinat explained that the crux of the issue is that it's a class 3 road when it probably should be a class 4 road past the current turnaround at Grey's house and that the two biggest road liabilities in town are Penny Street and Mill Terrace.

- a) Penny Street past the current turnaround has been maintained as a class 4 road for the last 20 years and it would cost a lot to bring it up to class 3 state standards. Mill Terrace has the only bridge in town and it would be expensive to replace it if needed.
    - iii. Discussion ensued.
    - iv. Withers will speak with the resident about putting in a turnaround at his house and the Selectboard will look into the reclassification process.
- 4. Peacham Pond plowing and sanding
  - a. Withers has not yet received this year's proposal from Blakely Jenkins.
- 5. Fire Department request
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed a request from the Fire Department to use the Town Hall parking lot during a Mass Casualty Incident drill being held in the Science Building on September 23, 2021. The drill would be between 6:00pm-7:30pm and local residents would be notified of the drill.
    - i. The Selectboard approved the request.
- 6. Approve minutes
  - a. **Browne moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021 as presented. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 7. Review and approve bills
  - a. **Browne moved to approve and pay all bills as presented. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 8. Review correspondence
  - a. Correspondence included:
    - i. Information on VLCT's annual meeting.
- 9. Executive session for personnel
  - a. **Browne moved to enter executive session for personnel. Craig seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 7:46pm.**
  - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:13pm.
  - c. **Browne moved to give Jeremy Withers, as Road Foreman, the authority to hire whichever application to the road crew position that he feels is best qualified at this time. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 10. Adjourn
  - a. **Browne moved to adjourn. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.**

Peacham Selectboard:

  


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Date: 15 sep 2021