

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 3, 2021
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public: Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Janie Carle, Dave Stauffer, Ron Craig, Marilyn Magnus, Wendy Morgan, Bob Morgan, Karen Lewis, Carol Fox, Jock Gill, Bob Ring, Julie Hansen, Laurie Kozar

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 7:00pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions to the agenda.
3. Town Clerk update
 - a. Property taxes were due on November 1st. The total received in taxes was \$136,000 short of the amount needed to be collected. The school's portion of taxes represents 73% of the total taxes and the school district receives its full amount due. Delinquent taxes fall completely on the town.
 - b. Galinat will prepare a preliminary budget and projections for discussion at the November 17th Selectboard meeting.
4. Highway Department update
 - a. The Road Crew finished the grant project on Thaddeus Stevens Road and Withers is finishing up the paperwork to submit for reimbursement.
 - b. The stop sign that is planned for South Peacham is delayed due to the state's paint shortage and may not go in until spring.
 - c. The Road Crew is getting the equipment ready for winter.
 - d. Discussion ensued on the beavers that are damming the brook and plugging up culverts in East Peacham. Withers is trying to get permission from two landowners to go across their land to access and break up the dam so that there won't be flooding issues in the spring.
5. Committee updates
 - a. Conservation Commission
 - i. The members of the commission are David Stauffer, Ron Miller, Marilyn Magnus, David Magnus, Carol Fox, and Tree Warden Neil Monteith (ex officio).
 - ii. The areas of coverage for the Conservation Commission include the Roller Barn area, Peacham Pathways trails including the village trail, the town forest trails, the Mill Creek Park trail, the town's legal trails, and ten acres at the Devil's Hill trailhead.
 - iii. Stauffer updated the Selectboard on the ongoing maintenance of the covered areas, the monitoring and removal of invasive species, and the idea of planting a tree nursery for the future harvesting of trees.
 - iv. Magnus gave an overview of the water testing that's being done on town ponds periodically throughout the year and the Tracking Club's history and its plan to have a guest speaker in the spring.
 - v. Fox is happy to have people use her property and to continue to have the school use it as well.
 - vi. Discussion ensued on the \$11,000 that is currently in the Conservation restricted fund and how spending from the fund should go through the process laid out in the town's Purchasing Policy.
 - a) Stauffer is planning to spend less than \$1,000 on getting the Roller Barn area cleaned up to make it safe as a public space.
 - vii. Stauffer and Washington will work on putting copies of trail maps in the cafe and on the town's website.
 - b. Cemetery Committee
 - i. The members of the committee are Karen Lewis, Bob Morgan, Wendy Morgan, David Stauffer, Becky Jensen, Annette Lorraine, Jim Barlow, and Sharon Jones.
 - ii. Lewis explained that Stauffer has done an enormous amount of work clearing a tree line and that Sexton Ron Craig has done an incredible job doing the work of two sextons.
 - iii. Lewis presented the proposed budget for 2022 which included a raise for the sexton, surveying costs for a natural burial site, money for stone maintenance and stone cleaning, and money for corner markers.
 - iv. R. Craig has been contacting surrounding towns to gather information on cemetery lot prices. The committee will look at the current pricing with R. Craig and make a recommendation on pricing to the Selectboard.
 - v. R. Craig plans to meet with Lewis and Stauffer to figure out which lots have issues with corner markers.
 - vi. Kozar asked if there is money in the budget for the maintenance of cabled trees and explained that David Jacobs estimated the work would cost \$3,000-\$5,000 over five years.
 - a) R. Craig will meet with the Tree Warden to see what needs to be done and the Cemetery Committee may revise its proposed budget based on his recommendations.

- vii. B. Morgan explained that the committee is requesting that the Selectboard designate a site in the cemetery for natural burials. He presented the proposed site and information regarding natural burials, which can be found at peacham.org/cemetery-committee/
 - a) Discussion ensued on the details of the proposed site, the process for natural burials, and how to gauge Peacham residents' interest in having a natural burial site in the cemetery.
 - b) The Cemetery Committee will hold an informational meeting soon and may try to include it as a discussion at Town Meeting.
- 6. PTF request to reserve the tennis court
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed a request from the PTF to use the tennis court to make Christmas wreaths.
 - b. **P. Craig moved to allow the PTF to use the tennis court to make Christmas wreaths with the stipulation that, as soon as they are done, they clean up the debris. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 7. Appropriations process discussion
 - a. The discussion was moved to the November 17th Selectboard meeting.
- 8. Solar project preferred siting designation letter
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed the preferred siting designation letter.
 - b. **Browne moved to authorize the Chair of the Selectboard to sign the letter on behalf of the Selectboard. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 9. Approve minutes
 - a. **Browne moved to approve the minutes of the public hearing on October 20, 2021. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 20, 2021. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 10. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Browne moved to approve and pay the bills as presented. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 11. Review correspondence
 - a. Correspondence included emails from John Reiss and Jeff Lamphere regarding the bear hunting seminar that was held in the Town Gym.
 - i. The seminar was not a town-sponsored event; the gym was just reserved and used by the bear hunting organization.
 - ii. Protocols put into place by the Selectboard, which required attendees to wear masks and sign Covid release forms, were followed.
 - iii. Peacham residents have precedence for gym reservations, but others are able to make reservations based on availability.
- 12. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.**

Peacham Selectboard:

Beatrice Rey

Date: 11-17-21

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