

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public: Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington,
Dave Stauffer, Harry Vann, Ron Craig, Rick Scholes, Josh Kantrowitz

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 7:04pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Town email
 - i. Moved to agenda item 6.
 - b. Town Gym
 - i. Moved to agenda item 12.
 - c. Transfer Station composting issue
 - i. Moved to agenda item 13.
 - d. Lister update
 - i. Moved to agenda item 15.
3. ARPA funds-discussion of NEK CUD draft agreement
 - a. The discussion of the CUD draft agreement was postponed until a later date.
 - b. Browne attended NVDA's info session. The slides from the session will be emailed out to towns.
 - c. The final rule for ARPA allows towns to spend the money on any normal town operations.
 - d. The Selectboard decided that proposals from residents would not be due on February 16th as previously discussed. There should be more input collected from the town before decisions are made, perhaps through listening sessions.
 - e. The APRA money has to be obligated by December 31, 2024, but the CUD deadline for a three to one funding match is sooner.
 - f. Scholes pointed out that the money should be spent to benefit the most residents.
4. Highway Department update
 - a. The new backhoe that was ordered in 2021 has been shipped from England and Withers is planning on having it by spring.
 - b. Browne wondered if it would be a good idea for the Tree Board to go around town in the spring to identify and mark the ash trees in the right-of-way that would fall in the road if and when they died. The town could work with the landowners to take care of the trees proactively.
 - i. Withers thought that it was a good idea and asked that he be kept in the loop.
5. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
 - a. The Town Clerk's office has been preparing for Town Meeting. The ballots have been mailed to all registered voters. Voters will get both ballots together in one envelope and will return both ballots together in one envelope.
 - b. Discussion ensued on the idea of the Transfer Station Attendant depositing checks directly to the bank instead of dropping them off at the Town Clerk's office.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed that all money should continue to go through the Town Treasurer and not be deposited directly to the bank by the Transfer Station Attendant.
6. Town email
 - a. The town currently pays \$12 per month per town email address through G Suite. Galinat suggested switching to a lower plan for \$6 per month per address. The town would lose access to the shared drive and would need to save any files that are currently on it.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed that the town should switch to the lower plan.
 - b. There are two town email addresses that are no longer in use.
 - i. Galinat asked if he could disable those two email addresses and the Selectboard agreed.
 - c. Discussion ensued on town officials and committees having official town email addresses.
7. Conservation Commission appointment
 - a. Because Neil Monteith stepped down as the town's Tree Warden but would still like to be involved in the Conservation Commission, Stauffer recommended that Neil Monteith be appointed.
 - b. **Browne moved to appoint Neil Monteith to the Conservation Commission with a term through Town Meeting. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
8. Committee updates
 - a. Health Officer
 - i. Kantrowitz expressed his appreciation for all of the work that has been done to keep Peacham healthy through the pandemic.
 - ii. He is serving a three-year term as Peacham's Health Officer. The Deputy Health Officer is Mary Daly.
 - iii. Kantrowitz has mainly been addressing COVID over the last two years, which has involved making recommendations to the Selectboard and clarifying state mandates as they pertain to the town. He also gets contacted for advice by residents and organizations in town.
 - iv. There have been a few dog bite reports, none of which involved rabies.

- v. There is currently proposed legislation that would shift the role of rental housing inspections from the town Health Officer to the regional department of fire safety. The designated inspector for the region would have more expertise in the area and would do the job in a more routine way.
9. Extension of face coverings rule
 - a. **Browne moved to extend the face coverings rule for another 30 days. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. Kantrowitz pointed out that, although infection rates have recently dropped, hospitalizations have not. There will probably be a conversation coming soon on how to identify the point at which things start returning to normal.
 10. Approve minutes
 - a. **Browne moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 as presented. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 11. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Browne moved to approve all bills as presented and to allow only one member of the Selectboard to sign the warrants. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. Browne will sign the warrants in the morning.
 12. Town Gym
 - a. Rachael Moragues is in the process of contacting the locksmith to have a keypad door lock put on the gym door to make the gym more accessible.
 13. Transfer station composting issue
 - a. The town has been issued a warning for contaminated compost that was collected from Peacham's Transfer Station. The single largest problem was compost-filled ziploc bags. Compost fees could increase if it keeps happening.
 - b. Discussion ensued on ways to educate and alert the residents about the issue.
 - i. The Selectboard plan on bringing it up at the informational hearing before Town Meeting.
 - ii. The Transfer Station Attendant will have to watch what people put in the compost and educate those who are contaminating it.
 - iii. A notice will be posted on the town website and facebook explaining the situation and reviewing the composting guidelines.
 14. Review correspondence
 - a. Correspondence present included:
 - i. A letter from the state regarding the proposal to reapportion the House of Representatives.
 - ii. A gym clean-up day sign that Rachael Moragues would like to post.
 - a) The Selectboard approved.
 15. Lister update
 - a. Scholes explained that the common level of appraisal (CLA) shows that properties in Peacham have been selling for more than what the town has them assessed for on the grand list. -If this continues, the town may be forced to do a reappraisal sooner than anticipated.
 - b. There is no one running for the open lister position.
 16. Adjourn
 - a. **Browne moved to adjourn. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 2/16/22.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


