

TOWN OF PEACHAM

Selectboard Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00pm

This meeting was conducted via zoom.

Attendees: Peter Craig, Chair of the Selectboard, Richard Browne, Selectboard Member, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Member, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk, Thomas Galinat, Town Clerk

Members of the Public: David Stauffer, Allison Webster, John Reiss, Ron Craig

1. Call to order by Peter Craig at 7:06pm
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Selectboard organization
 - a. Elect a chair
 - a. Motion to elect Peter Craig by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, Peter Craig elected chair.
 - b. Appoint a Selectboard Clerk
 - a. Motion to appoint the Town Clerk's Office by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, Town Clerk's Office elected Selectboard Clerk.
 - c. Determine meeting rules
 - a. Motion to follow Modified Robert's Rules of Order by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, Robert's Rules adopted.
 - d. Determine date and time of meetings
 - a. Motion to hold meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:00pm by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, meeting date and time determined.
4. Highway Department update
 - a. Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman spoke on the conditions of the roads and stated that the crew is ready for spring. The town pickup will be back in service this week. Peter Craig asked Jeremy to get going on the shim and overlay and paving projects. Thomas Galinat asked Jeremy the point where the town responsibility ends vs land owner responsibility begins when it comes to shedding water. Jeremy stated he wasn't not entirely sure. Richard Browne asked Jeremy to speak with AOT about this issue.
5. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
 - a. Thomas Galinat, Town Clerk/Treasurer, stated there was 38% of registered voters participating in Town Meeting. This number is twice the amount of a traditional floor meeting. He asked the Selectboard to be mindful of increasing participation when we all start to shift back to traditional floor meetings. He thanked the election workers and ballot counters. He asked the Selectboard to revamp the purchasing policy and encouraged the board to ask questions and request reports before the meetings.
6. Energy Committee request

- a. Peter Craig summarized the request; the energy committee asked for \$300 to support the electric vehicle charging station, \$150 from the energy committee's budget and \$150 from the general fund. Allison Webster, Energy Committee, spoke on the EV charger.
 - i. Motion to allow the Energy Committee to spend \$150 from their budget and \$150 from the General Fund toward and EV charging station at the library by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, Thomas Galinat, Treasurer, asked the board to reword the motion to allow Energy Committee to go over their budget by \$300 and have the entire amount come from one line to simplify accounting. Richard Browne amended his motion to state: Motion to allow the Energy Committee to spend \$300 on the EV charger that the library is installing, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, Energy Committee allowed to spend the \$300.
- 7. 2022 Selectboard appointments
 - a. Appropriations Committee
 - a. Motion to disband and dissolve the appropriation committee by Richard Brown, Alfred Dedam asked for clarification, Richard Browne spoke to the board about the role and volunteered to continue handling this role, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, no vote.
 - b. ARPA Committee
 - a. Richard Browne moved we create a committee to explore the possibilities presented by Peacham's ARPA funds. The committee will be charged with:
 1. Organizing and publicizing at least two listening sessions, via the town Zoom account, by May 15, 2022. Since the listening sessions will technically be special Selectboard meetings, a member of the Selectboard will act as host.
 2. Making a report to the Selectboard by July 1, 2022, to include a summary of the listening sessions, possibilities to leverage ARPA funds into larger grants, and recommendations as to how best to use these funds.
 To accomplish this task, I propose we make the following appointments to this committee: Allison Webster, Chair, Gillian Sewake, and Beatrice Ring. Richard Browne offered to be the Selectboard liaison, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, the committee is created and members appointed.
 - c. Cemetery Preservation Committee
 - a. Motion to appoint Karen Lewis and Bob Morgan for a three year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
 - d. Conservation Commission
 - a. Motion to appoint David Stauffer and Michelle Morton for a three year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
 - e. CUD Representatives
 - a. Motion to appoint Jock Gill for a one year term and Jim Barlow as an alternate for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
 - f. Development Review Board
 - a. Motion to appoint Rusty Barber for a three year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
 - g. Energy Committee

- a. Motion to appoint Bruce Westcott, Bruce Courtot, and David Jacobs for a three year term, Jock Gill and Tom Bryor for a one year term, Morgan Gold and Thomas Galinat as alternates for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- h. Emergency Management Coordinator
 - a. Motion to appoint Neil Monteith for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- i. 911 Coordinator
 - a. Motion to appoint Brian Barney for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- j. Fence Viewers
 - a. Richard Browne asked if Fence Viewers were a necessary appointment. Thomas Galinat filled the board in on a time within the last year when they were called upon. Discussion ensued. Motion to appoint Julie Lang, Cathy Corcoran, and Kalanani Gallas for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- k. Fire Chief
 - a. Motion to appoint Jeff Berwick for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- l. Green Up Chair
 - a. Motion to appoint Rose Dedam for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Peter Craig, all in favor, appointed.
- m. Deputy Health Officer
 - a. Motion to appoint Mary Daly for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- n. Inspector of Lumber, Shingles, and Wood
 - a. Motion to eliminate this position by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, position eliminated.
- o. Keeper of the Pound
 - a. The board discussed the needs for equipment and training. Richard Browne expressed interest in a three year term. Motion to appoint Gary Shedd for a three year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- p. Memorial Day Chair
 - a. Motion to appoint Julie Hanson for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- q. NEKWMD Representative
 - a. Motion to appoint Amber Lowell for a one year term by Peter Craig, Seconded by Richard Browne, all in favor, appointed.
- r. Planning Commission
 - a. Motion to appoint Bruce Maclean for a three year term and Tyler LaFountaine as an alternate for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- s. Service Officer

- a. Motion to appoint Patricia Strader for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, Thomas Galinat asked they reach out to see if she is still interested, Richard Browne said he would reach out, no vote.
- t. Sexton
 - a. Motion to appoint Ron Craig for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor with Peter Craig abstained, appointed.
- u. Tree Board
 - a. Richard Browne thanked the Tree Board for their excellent work finishing the inventory of ash trees in Peacham. Richard furthered; with the Emerald Ash Borer either soon to be in town or more likely already here this is important information for everyone. Going forward I feel that the Tree Board needs to take an active part in dealing with the EAB. Motion that the selectboard charge the Tree Board with the following two items; To develop a written procedure by 12/31/22 for the maintenance of our existing shade trees. Shade trees are defined as trees the town has planted and to develop and implement, in cooperation with the road foreman, by 12/31/22 a process for marking of all ash trees in the town right of way that when they die will fall into the road. This information we can use to approach landowners to see how they want to deal with these trees. If this project is too big for the Tree Board to take on alone, then I request that they contact the conservation commission for assistance. Motion for both action items by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.
 - b. Richard Browne continued after the motion; to achieve these goals, it seems to me that we need more members of the Tree Board with active tree removal experience. Motion by Richard Browne to dissolve the existing Tree Board and make the following appointments: Cornelia Hassenfuss (as chair) and Neil Monteith for a term of three years, Joe Layn and Jeff Lane for a term of two years, Jason Bean and Julie Lang for a term of one year, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- v. Tree Warden
 - a. Motion to appoint Joe Layn for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- w. Deputy Tree Warden
 - a. Motion to appoint Jason Bean for a one year term by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, appointed.
- x. Weigher of Coal
 - a. Motion to discontinue the office of weigher of coal by Richard Browne, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, office discontinued. David Stauffer asked what he should do with the 5 ton scale, he received a good chuckle from the board, he furthered there is no scale.

8. Extension of face coverings rule

- a. Richard Browne, shared his conflicted opinions. John Reiss shared his conflicted opinions, but stated “better safe than sorry”. Peter Craig and Alfred Dedam also shared their reservations both for and against lifting the mandate. Richard Browne motioned to extend the face covering for 30 more days, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.
- 9. Approve minutes
 - a. February 16, 2022
 - a. Peter Craig motioned to approve the minutes of February 16, 2022, Seconded by Richard Browne, all in favor with Alfred Dedam abstained, approved.
 - b. February 26, 2022 Informational Hearing
 - a. Peter Craig motioned to approve the minutes of February 26, 2022, Seconded by Richard Browne, all in favor with Alfred Dedam abstained, approved.
- 10. Review and approve bills
 - a. Richard Browne motioned to approve bills, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, approved. Thomas Galinat asked that Alfred Dedam sign the bills to help learn the town’s regular vendors and procedures.
- 11. Review correspondence
 - a. Richard Browne stated that there ARPA emails that will be forwarded to Allison Webster.
 - b. an email from Andrea Kane regarding use of the soccer field, Richard Browne moved to allow Andrea Kane to continue the use of the soccer field, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, permission granted.
 - c. Peter Craig shared an update regarding compost contamination, PLU stickers on fruit appear to be a major culprit. Peter asked Rebecca Washington to post about the contamination.
 - d. Richard Browne stated there were emails about the gym. Richard asked Alfred to be the liaison to the gym. Racheal Moragues sent a proposal for a waiver of liability. The board decided to review the previous waiver and policies before approving this new one. David Stauffer asked does the waiver covered damage to Town Property or just waiver of injury to participants.
 - e. Rebecca Washington stated there was the NEKWMD annual report in the board’s mailbox
- 12. Adjourn
 - a. Richard Browne motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, adjourned at 8:26pm.

These minutes were approved at the March 16th, 2022 Selectboard meeting.

A copy of the recording and any comments from the chat are available by request from the Town Clerk’s office.

Thomas Galinat