

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, February 15th, 2023 at 7:00pm
Hybrid meeting in Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-Person: Richard Browne, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Select Board, Morgan Gold, Deana Senturia, Joel Wright, Jeff Lane, and Jonathan Kaplan.

Via Zoom: Thomas Galinat, Town Clerk, Dave Stauffer, Jake Thomas, Allie Webster, Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Peter Craig at 7:00pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Green burial approval
 - b. Executive session to discuss real estate
 - c. Dave Stauffer announced he is making plans for a community cleanup day for the cemeteries, potentially including a walk of the Roller Barn area by the Tree Board to identify ash trees that need attention.
 - i. Tentative date would be Earth Day, i.e., Saturday, April 22nd, 2023
 - ii. He hopes to make an announcement at Town Meeting. The Selectboard encourages this.
 - iii. Richard suggested he finalize plans to present to the selectboard for approval before Town Meeting.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. Email update from Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman: working on usual maintenance required this time of year. The grater has brand new tires.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update by Tom Galinat
 - a. To accommodate Town Meeting business, **Richard moved to change the selectboard meetings to the second and fourth Wednesdays for March only, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Tom said the office has been wrapping up loose ends, including dealing with outstanding unclaimed checks and going through vault to put things in order.
 - c. He is still preparing for the return to in-person Town Meeting on March 7th and the related plan to make meeting house secular. He hopes this plan will be finalized and presented to Sonya Dunbar and Sam McLeod on March 6th.
 - d. **Richard moves to approve a green burial pending written letter from town health officer, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
5. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) update
 - a. Richard explained that everything is currently on hold because they are in negotiations to purchase the green from Peacham Community Housing. They are planning to use the ARPA funds for this purchase, but the amount is still undetermined. They do not want to make other ARPA decisions until that purchase has been settled.

- b. Joel Wright asked about the part of the green being purchased. Selectboard clarified it is the entire Academy green, giving some reference points.
 - c. Johnathan Kaplan asked about the anticipated price. Richard explained that the number is still in negotiation. They have not received the bill for the survey they requested, and there are other expenses to consider on top of the price of the purchase.
 - d. Jeff Lane asked about the deadline for using the funds. The selectboard clarified that the funds have to be allocated by December 31st, 2024 and spent by December 31st, 2026.
 - e. Allie Webster noted that it is important to keep ARPA on the agenda to make sure it moves forward. She also wanted to clarify to the public that new proposals or discussion of previous proposals are still welcome. She said new funding is becoming available that could be stacked with the ARPA funding, such as the Inflation Reduction Act and the Municipal Energy Resilience Fund. She also asked whether there are plans to discuss ARPA at Town Meeting as a forum for community engagement. Peter stated that it would have to be brought up at the end of Town Meeting as non-binding business because the warning was published at end of last year. Richard explained that ARPA will not be on the schedule for the Selectboard meeting on March 8th due to Town Meeting business, but it could be added to the agenda for the March 22nd meeting.
 - f. Allie noted that aspects of the progress on the green purchase might be delayed until May because restrictions on state organizations won't be addressed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board until their May board meeting, so she encouraged the selectboard to discuss other ARPA funding allocations in the meantime.
6. Veteran's Monument update
- a. The selectboard received a letter from Allen Thresher Sr. with information about the tribute monument and a request for approval for use of the Peacham town tax exempt number with the Gandin Brother's Granite Company. The monument has been fully funded by donations at a cost of approximately \$16,000. Selectboard decided to ask the Town Clerk/Treasure to send that information along. No motion necessary.
7. Approve minutes
- a. **Alfred moved to approve minutes from February 1st, 2023, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Review and approve bills
9. Review correspondence
- a. Peter e-signed paperwork for grant filed for Planning Commission bylaws.
 - b. **Alfred moved to appoint Katherine Siner to the Planning Commission, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
10. Executive Session
- a. **Richard moved to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate at 7:40pm.**
 - b. **Richard moved to exit executive session at 8:05pm, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved. No action taken.**
11. Alfred moved to adjourn at 8:05pm, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.

Documents provided to the Selectboard and discussed at this meeting are available by request to the Town Office