

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Richard Browne, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Select Board, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Ron Craig, Joe Notini.

Via Zoom: Dave Edwards, Dave Stauffer, Tim McKay, Neil Monteith, Morgan Gold, Janie Carle, John Marshall, Jake Thomas.

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 6:30pm on Wednesday, April 5th, 2023.
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Highway Department update by Jeremy Withers
 - a. Jeremy spoke to Walt Neborsky, the roadside mower. He can mow twice. Price will be a bit more. Discussion about problem locations and how many extra days to request. Peter and Alfred will work with Jeremy to pinpoint locations where early cutting is necessary.
 - b. 6-wheeler has an electoral issue and is out being fixed.
 - c. Matt's CDL driving is going well.
 - d. Jeremy will be out of state in end of April. Any decisions at that come up can be left to Dylan.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update by Rebecca Washington
 - a. ARPA reporting for the year is due at the end of the month. We have spent \$36,756.38 so far, the bulk being broadband, and \$6700 on survey and legal fees.
 - b. Rebecca signed incoming Assistant Clerk, Jen Surat, up for a training. She requested to include this expense in April 19th AP even though her first day is the day of the training on April 27th. Selectboard agreed.
 - c. Rebecca shared budget status report. There were no questions. She noted that the town will probably need to borrow from TAN this year, but it would be done in smaller amounts at a time to keep interest payments to a minimum.
5. Strengthening Democracy in Peacham Workshops
 - a. Tim McKay announced the Tuesday, April 11th workshop from 6:30-8:30pm. Zoom will be available, but in-person is preferable. Second workshop is 3 weeks later. Location is at the library, but the gym is reserved if the crowd is too big for the library.
 - b. Richard clarified that this workshop is to support more participation in Town Meeting. Tim noted that it is also about how to strengthening democracy throughout the year.
 - c. IMPORTANT NOTE: this is NOT a selectboard-appointment committee. However, the meeting will be warned as a special meeting since it may include discussion items that might be brought to the Selectboard at a later date.

6. Local Emergency Management Plan by Neil Monteith
 - a. Plan is basically the same as last year, but he just needs some contact information.
 - b. It will be ready to approve by next meeting. Peter has the authority to sign it since he has taken the Emergency Management classes. Selectboard agreed to continue to authorize Neil to spend up to \$5000 for emergencies.
 - c. Neil and Andrea attended regional emergency planning committee.
 - d. Neil also announced that applications are available for the Peacham Farm Support Grant at the Town Clerk's office. Applications are due in May.
7. Town Mowing
 - a. Prisoner work program is unavailable this year. Mowing includes 3 cemeteries (our turn for Groton), Fletcher field, Town Hall land, around the moments and the triangle green, by the fire station, by the town garage, transfer station, Ewell's Mill historical park, and the green in East Peacham village. Library has asked to be included in the contract, but would be noted separately on the bill and charged. Request for bids will be put out and are needed by the end of April. Peter noted that the town was paying almost \$11,000. He and Jeremy estimate the cost will be between \$24,000-32,000 now. Frequency needs to be determined. It has been contracted "as needed" in the past. Alfred suggested including language to reserve the right to request mowing before big events.
8. Church driveway/parking lot gravel/grading
 - a. It has been a spoken agreement up to this point based on exchanging use of the space for plowing. All feel it's time for a written agreement. Richard asked John Marshall and Peter to draft up an agreement. Discussion about providing plowing and material, but the grading equipment does not fit the space making grading impossible.
9. Transfer Station contract
 - a. Still some questions. No quote for recycling from Casella yet. Discussion of role of NEKWMD. Discussion of comparison of prices and services and implications of each choice. Unable to make a decision until more information is available.
10. Loss prevention items from transfer station
 - a. Annual insurance inspection indicated need for steps for compactor. Qualified ladder has already been provided. Also indicated that the fire extinguisher needs to be inspected on a monthly basis. It can be part of Amber's monthly routine. Also indicated was a request to keep it as clean as possible to avoid rodents. Finally, the railing at bulky waste dumpster is broken and needs fixing. Discussion of replacing it with something more durable, but will wait until contract is signed.
11. Clothes recycling
 - a. Clothing and shoes recycling through Apparel Impact. Question about whether it should be at the transfer station or in town where it is more accessible. Clarification that it's not just about donating clothes, but recycling the materials.
12. Code of Conduct update
 - a. Auditors suggested all volunteer members of committees sign a code of conduct which matches the document the town personnel sign. Richard has a draft which he shared with other members of the board. Upon approval, clerk to Selectboard will send to all committees. Alfred suggested making it an e-signature. Richard clarified that it is voluntary, and the Selectboard will encourage it, but cannot require it.

13. PCH land easement update
 - a. Richard spoke to Annette. It is likely that the town will have to bring back the surveyor to survey the easement, and determine what is necessary for access to the science building, however, this must occur after PCH has done their subdivision, so issue is on hold until that is completed.
14. PCH survey bill decision
 - a. Decision will be held off until all of the easements have been done. Expenses will continue to be paid out of ARPA funds.
15. Town Hall HVAC
 - a. Replaced the boiler and resolved heating issue already this year. The town received quotes from Andy Tomilson to put heat pumps into the gym and town offices, but the board needs to visit the site. Richard will set up a meeting with Andy and a warning will be put out for a special meeting.
 - b. Site visit will depend on Andy's availability.
16. Tree Board appointment
 - a. No appointees yet. Determined it may not be necessary to appoint anyone else, but Richard requested an update from the Tree Board, especially in regards to marking trees.
17. Service Officer appointment
 - a. **Richard moves to appoint Nichole Wolfgang as service officer, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
18. Public comment
 - a. Dave Stauffer announced again that the community cemetery cleanup day is tentatively scheduled for April 22nd at 9:00am assuming snow is gone. He will tackle the smaller, older cemetery himself.
19. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from March 22nd, 2023 seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
20. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
21. Review correspondence
 - a. Post Office management said they would find someone else to do the work, but Peter clarified the town's intention to do all the work at once and asked the postmaster to speak with them. RFP will be needed after site visit.
 - b. The selectboard received an email from the state, DEC, with a notice of a violation for the transfer station. There is a statement that needs to be filed related to financial responsibility. Richard is working to clarify what is needed and how to take care of it.
 - c. Rebecca explained there is opioid prevention settlement that we can opt into or not. Richard requested Rebecca forward it to Josh Kantrowitz, the Health Officer. The deadline is before the next meeting, but the Selectboard wants the Health Officer's opinion before deciding.
 - d. **Peter moved to authorize the Town Clerk to sign for the decision if the health officer recommends our participation, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

- e. Northern Vermont Development Association rep needed, so Richard will reach out to the Planning Commission for a recommendation.
- f. Grants and aid for state highway needs a letter of intent. Selectboard will talk to Jeremy.
- g. Alfred asked about overnight parking at the library at the charging station. He expressed concern that the financial portion of the library budget intended for the charging station was not intended to support it as an overnight parking lot. Richard recognized it as an issue, but stated that it's an issue that the library has to resolve and they are looking into solutions.

22. Peter moved to adjourn at 7:57pm, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.

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