

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
Selectboard Meeting  
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Richard Browne, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Select Board, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Ian Boswell, Mary Daly, Julie Morrison, Robert Bartell, Nikki Barrett, Doug Morrison, and John Reiss

Via Zoom: David Stauffer, John Dawson, Ron Craig

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 06:32pm, June 7, 2023.
2. Additions to the agenda - none
3. Highway Department Update from Jeremy Withers
  - a. Roadside mowing – Walt Nebrosky will come on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to do first round. He will stay mainly to the pavement, but they are checking out other areas. He will ask him to cover as much as he can in those 2 days.
  - b. Soccer field hole – Jeremy didn't find it yet, so it's not filled yet. Alfred will reflag to help him find it later.
  - c. Jeremy provided 3 documents for signing: Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory, the Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways, and a document confirming contact info for town officials.
  - d. Jeremy asked about a correspondence regarding Peacham pond plowing and parking in the winter. He questioned the process of plowing the boat access to then be reimbursed by the state instead of the state plowing it. Discussion about how to look into this, what the options are, and its impact on parking.
    - i. Richard will reach out to Forests, Parks, and Recreation to bring it up.
  - e. Jeremy asked for an opinion from the Selectboard regarding high-speed internet company who has asked to run underground fiber cables on two sections of Penny St. This would be in the town's right-of-way. Jeremy provided maps. Discussion of location and implications. If the company can install the cables allowing for space for a ditch, Jeremy is ok with it and the Selectboard agrees.
  - f. They are working on Class 4s and they are on schedule. They are doing some grating, ditching, and culvert flushing.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – Email update from Rebecca Washington

- a. The town will overspend the budgeted amount for training this year because we have a lot of new people in new positions. Town will look for savings in other places.
  - b. Town Hall renovations – The post office has been given tentative start date of Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and tentative end date of Nov 1<sup>st</sup> for work on Town Hall. Richard gave a brief overview of this agenda item.
5. Gretchen & Ian Boswell – Fall Fondo
  - a. Seeking approval 5<sup>th</sup> Fall Fondo to be held on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with a similar operation to previous years. Ian asked if it would be impacted by renovation. Richard said that if the event was impacted, events could potentially be moved to the green.
  - b. **Alfred moved to approve the Peacham Fall Fondo take place on town property, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
6. Cemetery Committee Appointment
  - a. **Richard moved to appoint Karen Gallas the Cemetery Committee for a 1-year term until proper spacing is determined, Alfred seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
7. Town Hall update
  - a. Town Hall quote – The town has received a revised quote for putting heat pumps for heating and cooling in the gym and on the first floor.
  - b. Two Fire Station quotes have been received.
  - c. Selectboard wants to hold off on accepting the quotes until it is confirmed that there is a place to put the equipment outside.
8. Roadside mowing update – see Highway Department update
9. Peacham/Groton Cemetery agreement update – Peter Craig (not present) is taking care of this, so this item will wait. Richard clarified what this agreement is to those present.
10. Cow Hill Right-of-Way update
  - a. Alfred reached out to Toby Balivet, and he will research the status of the road, the implications of a discontinued road, and identify the legal deeded access to the town forest.
  - b. Alfred explained that the focus of the town is on the access to the town forest, and he feels the Morrison's concern will resolve itself once that is determined.
  - c. Julie Morrison commented about a description of the town forest. John Reiss commented on maps of the right-of-way. Selectboard reiterated that they feel the need for a real estate attorney to make the determination.
  - d. Doug Morrison alerted the Selectboard that Toby Balivet was waiting for a written letter giving permission to research. Alfred will draft a letter from the town. He will also send scanned copies of the documents Robert Bartell provided, as Robert requested.
  - e. Robert Bartell asked if he could contact Toby Balivet as well. Richard said he could, noting that this was not intended to be one-sided.

- f. Richard commented that he trusted Toby to find a resolution that all those concerned would feel comfortable with. John Reiss asked about providing documents from Wagner vs. Wagner and Taylor Rd. Richard confirmed Toby would have access to those documents.
  - g. Richard commented that he believed that access at the top of Cow Hill Road was ok for everyone involved. Julie Morrison asked for clarification. Richard asked if he could drive through with a truck as it is now. Julie noted that that is the main question, if the trail starts at the gate, do vehicles go on a trail?
  - h. Referring to minute 8.a.vii in the May 17<sup>th</sup> minutes, regarding the "agreement that the gates at both ends should have the same rules once this is resolved," Julie noted that it was expressed that the rules are unclear, so she asked if both ends could keep the gates up until this is resolved. Richard stated that it was the town's position that the gate at the top of Cow Hill Road remain open to allow Nikki Barrett and Doug Morrison access.
  - i. Robert Bartell commented that they had never been stopped. Richard clarified that he was not saying that the Morrisons had ever been stopped from accessing it, only that they can access it now, and until there is a determination on the issue, the town would like leave things as they are standing right now. Alfred agrees that this is the position of the Selectboard.
11. Deputy Health Officer – Mary Daly
- a. Richard clarified that Josh Kantrowitz is the Health Officer and that the town is required to have a Health Officer and a Deputy Health Officer. When Mary was reappointed as Deputy Health Officer in March, the term should have been 3 years instead of the 1 year she was appointed to. Mary agreed to serve a 3-year term.
  - b. Richard moved to appoint Mary Daly as Deputy Health Officer for a term of 3 years beginning in March 2023, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Soccer field hole update – see Highway Department update
13. Public comment
- a. John Reiss asked about the Public Comment agenda item intention. Richard clarified that they will take questions on other agenda items in an orderly manner, but the public comment can be any topic, including items not listed on the agenda.
14. Approve minutes
- a. Alfred moved to approve minutes from May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
15. Review and approve bills
- a. Richard moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
  - b. Richard moved to sign the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory, Alfred agreed. Peter needs to sign it as well.

- c. Richard moved to approve and sign the Annual Financial Plan: Town Highways, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
    - d. Josh Kantrowitz needs to sign official Deputy Health Officer appointment document.
  - 16. Review correspondence
    - a. Correspondence about changing procedures related to outdoor burning. Selectboard agreed that they not inclined to address it at the moment, and not without a lot more information from every possible angle related to the issue.
    - b. Correspondence from state confirming Emerald Ash borer in West Barnet, so the state recommendation is that firewood is not moved to other towns. More information is forthcoming. Alfred spoke with Joe Layn, who will try to arrange a meeting to make a plan for the fall a when access to marking trees would be easier. Some supplies and manpower will likely be necessary. Next tree board meeting is to identify their needs and a recommended course of action, which will hopefully lead to some guidelines and recommendations. Richard wanted to emphasize that the concern is marking the trees along the road that belong to residents. The intention will just be to mark the trees that will fall in the road. Once the tree is sick enough to fall, the wood is unusable and can become hazardous, so they want to encourage residents to remove the trees in any rights-of-way when they can. Discussion about the borer and ashes.
      - i. Email correspondence from Dean Bornstein about an Ash tree will be forwarded to the tree warden.
  - 17. **Alfred moves to adjourn at 07:25pm, 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.