

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
Wednesday, September 20, 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, Selectboard, Martha Winston, Allen Freund, Robert Campbell, Rusty Barber

Via Zoom: Robert Bartell, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 6:30pm, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
2. Additions to the agenda - none
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman not present
  - a. Peter reported speaking to Jeremy and there was not much to update. Everything is going as should. Richard took a look at work on Green Bay Loop funded by the Better Back Roads Grant. It looks good and they are making progress. Peter explained that with this grant, each year they focus on a road with a steep hill to work on. He says Jeremy is not sure which road he will work on next year because funding might decrease due to the increase in applicants. Richard explained that one of the goals in these projects try to divert the runoff from draining into ponds or streams. Discussion of past projects.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk
  - a. Laurie Webster alerted the Selectboard of trash dumped on Morrison Hill Rd, and asked if she could deliver it to the dump for free (like Green Up day) if she cleans it up. Selectboard agreed. Peter will communicate with Amber and Rebecca.
  - b. Next FEMA meeting is Sept 27<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Due to the solar array being live, the electric bill was half what it usually was. We get a 10% minimum discount.
5. Peacham Pond – Martha Winston and Allen Freund
  - a. Martha explained that the grant-funded Greeter Program hires someone to be present at the boat access to inspect boats for invasive species. Martha works with Rebecca throughout the summer. She provided a graph showing yearly number reports and the Greeter report. 2023 had low numbers of inspections, hours/week, and DEC grant contribution due to weather impacts. Contributions from Peacham Pond Association Town of Peacham are TBD for this year. Waiting for grant to come through. The program pays for Greeter hours and milage. Martha emphasized the milage expense is worth it because the Greeter, Pricilla

McCormick Sampson, is excellent. The Greeter is due to be paid about \$3,960. The 2023 DEC grant contribution is currently at \$2,125, so there is a difference of about \$1,800. Goal is to keep water quality high and keep invasive species out. Runoff is always an issue. This year might be bad due to flooding. Peter commented that Peacham Pond is one of only ponds around without invasive species, and he hopes this work will continue. Martha will communicate with Rebecca, who will provide the final numbers for discussion once they become available.

- b. They met with Jeremy about boat access improvements. Emily Finnigan with Caledonia County Natural Resource Conservation District offered to help with grant requests for improvements. Allen reports they are coming up with an improvement plan. They hope to be able to do it in the Spring. Any plan needs to be maintained. Parking continues to be an issue as well. Mike from Fish and Game is willing to meet with Selectboard to discuss parking. It will be added to an upcoming agenda.
  - c. Ryan Chapel, who communicates with Jeremy on behalf of the area residents, requested they report that the roads to Peacham Pond are getting really tight due to lack of roadside mowing. Martha requested they to be added to the mowing next year. Richard asked if it got mowed in July. Martha reported it hadn't been mowed this year, and no bushes have been cut back in a few years. It's a safety concern. She explained that Jeremy was at their last meeting and clarified which of the concerns pertain to the Town and which pertain to the State.
6. Town Hall update – Robert Campbell, Post Office and Rusty Barber, volunteer designer
- a. Rusty provided a report of the current update of project. No update for the interior renovations and front entry roof addition. Zoning variance approved for rear shed roof for heat pumps. Two quotes for foundation waterproofing and site work, but neither contractor can do the work until next year. Allen Thresher's quote is more thorough, but more expensive. Shane Stevenson's is lower, but does not include a breakdown of costs. Peter would like to request Shane provide a breakdown of costs. Rusty discussed shed construction with Dave and Jim Stauffer, but since the project has been delayed, communication has stopped. This project could potentially be included in larger renovation work next year.
  - b. Rusty provided the drawing of the space that has been sent to the Post Office and listed the scope of work for renovations that he has been provided thus far. He asked if there was anything else needed. Robert confirmed he feels the change to 24 hours will be safe. He had the Postal Inspection Service do their own investigation, and they approved it. It will require the Post Office to put in a more secure Post Office window closure, but the Post Office will be responsible for it. Richard asked if the Post Office would put in a camera in the lobby. Robert said he will bring it up to Kyle Perkins from the Postal Inspection Service, but his

expectation is no. Robert is satisfied with the work project plans. Discussion about updated HVAC system. Discussion about replacing the outside window in Post Office to be more secure and functional, but meeting town requirements. Robert asked about repairing asphalt under awning. Rusty explained there will be a roof over that in new design, eliminating the need for asphalt. Peter commented about adding a retaining wall. Rusty is not sure when the project will go out to bid, but he estimates in January. Robert confirmed he is satisfied with the progress if he is able to get updated and as long as they can coordinate the window replacement. Post Office will be replacing one door and the frame of the other for upkeep and fire safety. Rusty and Robert will communicate further as things progress. Post Office's intention is to accommodate the change in mail type and volume, and resident access.

7. Cemetery Deeds
  - a. **Alfred moved to approve the cemetery deeds, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Peacham Fire Department – request for purchasing authority
  - a. **Peter moved to give the Peacham Fire Department Grant Committee the purchasing authority for the grant recently awarded, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Public comment - none
10. Approve minutes
  - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Review and approve bills
  - a. AP is high because the town truck and fire truck payments are due.
  - b. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Review correspondence
  - a. Town Building and Town Garage were approved for the energy assessments. MERP project is ongoing.
  - b. A resident past Peacham Pond turn around requested the Town plow further. Jeremy and Peter will analyze the map to confirm the boundary between the town and private road. A private road cannot be maintained by the Town.
  - c. Discussion of Green Bay Loop work.
- 13. Peter moved to adjourn at 7:39pm, 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.