

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
Selectboard Special Meeting  
In-person meeting at the town offices

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Molly Willard, Selectboard, Richard Browne, Rusty Barber, Christian Snow, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Jen Surat, Assistant Town Clerk, Rachael Mascolino, VEIC, Jen Severidt, Efficiency VT

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 08:06am, Wednesday, March 13, 2024
2. Site visit and review of renovation drawings and documents.
  - a. Rusty reviewed the updated documents and drawings.
  - b. Molly asked about which HVAC system should be utilized based on what the town's goals are. She confirmed that the construction was one decision, and the HVAC system will be another process in itself. All agree to see what VEIC would recommend.
    - i. **Peter moved to accept the construction drawing, schedules, and plans Rusty Barber put forth, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
  - c. Discussion about specific goals of HVAC installation. Alfred and Peter commented how cost and efficiency are high priority, noting the benefits of using the solar array. Rusty feels it's worth attempting sustainability. Molly commented that decarbonization would be important, noting that electrification doesn't necessary equate to decarbonization. She agrees that efficiency, decarbonizing, and social responsibility about where the energy is coming from are important. Rusty commented about the comfort factor because the building can get very uncomfortable. Molly commented that understanding the longevity of the systems and upkeep is important for planning the town budget. Richard commented that climate change may affect our needs moving forward. Molly encouraged the group to consider the CO2 emissions of the different systems as well. Richard encouraged sustainability.
  - d. Discussion of post and beam replacement. They will look into it.
  - e. Walk around to show the current layout.
  - f. Rusty will get the Request For Bids out as soon as possible.
3. Meeting with VEIC – Rachael and Jen for Efficiency VT
  - a. Jen has worked with the Energy Committee already and is familiar with the ideas, and Rachael is the expert on HVAC systems and all the areas to take under consideration. Rachael offered to be a source for technical reference points.

Richard explained the proposal from Andy Tomlinson and answered Rachael's questions about the building and use. Based on the explanations of the current plans and goals, Rachael made a suggestion to include an Energy Recovery Ventilation Unit to better support efficiency. She explained the benefits and challenges of the system options, what it means for maintenance, and future developments to consider. She wanted to make sure there is an awareness of the pros and cons for each of the systems. Discussion with Rusty about drawings to identify zones. Discussion of different heat pump systems and how to install them in a way that they are most cost effective and comfort effective. Rachael explained how she could support the decision-making moving forward. Rusty asked how involved she can be.

- b. The action item was that the board will discuss the plans further with Andy Tomlinson, and ask Rachael to review his documents, the MERP audit results, and to see what she would recommends.
4. Alfred moved to adjourn at 9:55am, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.

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