

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Andrea Kane, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Karen Lewis, Sarah Lydon, David Stauffer, Jutta Scott, Katherine Siner, Dave Edwards, Jane Stauffer.

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Laurie Kozar, Nancy Lou Saidi

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 6:31pm, Wednesday, May 1, 2024
2. Additions to the agenda - none
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers
 - a. Class 3 roads are in pretty good shape. Will start on Class 4 roads soon. Starting ditching and working on culverts. Started to truck winter sand to replenish pile.
 - b. Roadside mowing – Walt available again for a couple days in early June and again in July, but there are some others interested in the job. Discussion about putting it out to bid.
 - i. **Andrea moved to put the roadside mowing out to bid, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Crew going to trainings in Montpelier May 8th and 16th. Jeremy requested approval to help Matt attend them.
 - d. A crew member asked if he could take a Peacham Truck to a Touch-a-Truck event at Danville School on May 24th. Jeremy confirmed that insurance is ok with it with a few precautions. Board agrees that if the insurance company is ok with it, they are ok with it.
 - e. Jeremy set up a meeting with Logan Perron from VTrans and Ben Matthews from the State Rivers and Streams next Tuesday to discuss Slack St stream. Molly shared an applicable grant that could support this potential project.
 - f. Gravel budget was \$70,000, but crew has had to spend \$65,000 already due to the weather. Price of gravel has gone up a little, but most of the cost has been quantity needed. Peter commented that the weather and amount of mud wasn't in Jeremy's control, and to just do the best he can. Alfred asked how the rest of the year looks. Jeremy explained that most of it is down, but there are patches that still need it. An upcoming grant will help offset the cost of some of the gravel. Andrea asked about redistributing gravel from ditching, and Jeremy

agreed they can use some of it in some places. They've already been out with the broom to sweep back the gravel thrown to the side of the road.

- g. Jeremy checked on the status of the new town pickup truck. According to the sales people, the truck we ordered in January has not been "picked to build" yet, and it takes 3-4 months to get after it's been picked to build. Jeremy investigated other options. There is a similar truck sitting on the lot. Jeremy asked them for a quote to put on the necessary bedliner and plow accessories on that one. Trade in is worth \$20,000. Ordered truck with plow was \$55,239. They quoted the one on the lot at \$54,214.
 - i. **Peter moved to go with what is on the lot and get it immediately before the trade-in truck value drops, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - h. Followed up about driving around to look at the asphalt.
 - i. Alfred asked about the PCH request for work, and Jeremy confirmed that it's on his list of things to do.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Cemetery deed
 - i. **Peter moved to approve the cemetery deed, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. Rebecca approved a one-day liquor license for the Library.
 - iii. Windsong property paperwork – discussion of correct date and confirming changes. Donation has already been approved and paperwork does not need their signatures, so board agrees that it's all set.
 - iv. Clarifying Cemetery Sexton stipend payment – Board determined that Peter should be paid from 1/20/24-5/1/24 as he was doing the work during that time.
 5. Abandoned Store Discussion – Jutta Scott and Sarah Lydon
 - a. In Aug 2023 the Assistant Fire Marshall came to do an outside inspection of the store and provided a report. Two main points: extreme fire danger the building poses and safety issues. Report requires the owner to have an inspection by a civil engineer by a deadline. Owner did not respond. In November, a petition with approximately 100 signatures was gathered to request that the Selectboard follow up. Sarah and Jutta followed up with the Assistant Fire Marshall multiple times requesting he enforce what was laid out in the report. They are asking the Selectboard to contact Assistant Fire Marshall for follow up as well. Andrea asked about some specifics about the law. Andrea will contact the Assistant Fire Marshal and keep Fire Chief Berwick in the loop. Dave Edwards spoke for a group of residents who have attempted to purchase the store to no avail. He said Maurice VanDemark, State Fire Marshal, is aware of the situation, and encouraged the Selectboard to contact him as well. Discussion about PCH's support and involvement. Discussion about the importance of the location to the town.

6. Public comment
 - a. Dave Stauffer – Cemetery committee would like to thank the 7 volunteers who helped clean up the cemetery last weekend.
 - b. William asked about mowing contract. Peter confirmed it began May 1st.
7. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from April 17th, 2024, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Review correspondence
 - a. Peacham Pond Association sent information on their greeter program for invasive species. Grant supported. Last year's data included.
10. Executive Session for Cemetery Sexton:
 - a. Entered 7:33pm. Exited 8:35pm.
 - b. **Alfred moved to reappoint Ron Craig as Cemetery Sexton, seconded by William, Molly in favor, Andrea opposed, Peter recused himself, motion passed.**
 - c. Molly commented that if people have concerns with the decision, they can come to a Selectboard meeting or Cemetery meeting to discuss the thinking that led the board to this decision.
 - d. The Selectboard requested that the Cemetery Committee work on a succession plan for the current sexton and identifying a sustainable compensation package.
11. **William moves to adjourn at 8:39pm, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**

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