

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard chair, William Kempton, Selectboard, Andrea Kane, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Sarah Lydon, Ron Craig, Kevin Hudson, Cullen Barber

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:33pm, Wednesday, May 15, 2024.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Ron Craig - Cemetery
3. Highway Department Update
 - a. Switched to summer schedule. Working on routine maintenance.
 - b. Got crosswalk signs up on posts.
 - c. Equipment – grader was out of service last week but is fixed. A truck went down this morning, but they were able to fix it. Everything is up and running.
 - d. They got the new pickup.
 - e. Roadside mowing – only one roadside mowing proposal from Walt Nebrosky for this year, but he offered two proposals. One for June and July and one for July only. Board agrees that the pass in June is important.
 - i. **Andrea moved to accept the first bid proposal from Walt Nebrosky for two passes for \$6,600, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - f. Slack Street stream – Met with State, they suggested removing the log dam so the stream could potentially correct itself. No funding for putting in rocks now. They took the log dam out already, so Jeremy is monitoring it. If it washes out, there is funding to fix it.
 - g. Paved roads assessment – drove around with Will and Alfred, and he hopes to make a plan moving forward.
 - h. Macks Mountain Rd in Cabot is still closed to put in the bridge, but Jeremy has been in touch with their team and he hopes it will be open Thursday.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca
 - a. Final meeting with FEMA, working to get eligible for rest of funding.
 - b. Need to re-sign cemetery deed due to error
 - c. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be signed
5. Abandoned Store Update

- a. Andrea spoke with Ryan Aremburg from the Division of Fire Safety who confirmed he had spoken with the Fire Marshal. They are concerned due to the contiguous nature of the building, and they would like to get inside. He had reached out twice to the owner who has not responded. He and supervisor are coming up with a plan, but due to staff shortage, things are moving slowly. Owner appears to be paying town water bill.
6. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - signed
7. Sign Cemetery Deed
 - a. **Will moved to approve and sign the cemetery deed, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Peacham Pond Road request – Kevin Hudson
 - a. Kevin thanks Jeremy for taking good care of the roads. Kevin and his father plowed the end of Peacham Pond road for many years. The town considers it a private road. Cullen Barber, another local resident whose land the road crosses, is willing let the town go across his property, if that is the concern. Kevin is requesting the last 700ft be reclassified from private to class 3. Kevin explained that Peacham Pond residents pay a lot in taxes, and feels that with the large plow being used, it should not be too costly to add it to the plowing. Andrea asked Jeremy about the number of roads that fall under this situation in the town. She and Molly expressed their concern for setting a precedent. Discussion about what it would take to reclassify the road. Jeremy warned that jumping from a private road to a class 3 road is a huge leap to try to take. Discussion about what the process would look like and how research needs to happen before any consideration. Jeremy suggested that the Selectboard's first step should be to drive out to the location being discussed. Discussion about specs for class 3 roads and the challenge of moving and turning equipment around. Discussion about process other roads by Peacham pond became classified as class 3 roads. The official milage was recently readjusted to reflect the actual end of the town road, which is where the plow stops now. Molly asked Jeremy for clarification about the comparison between different sections of the roads around Peacham Pond. Discussion about how reclassification is a significant process that would need to be followed very carefully.
9. Pump Track Proposal – Alfred Dedam with Ian Boswell (not present)
 - a. Full presentation forthcoming, but they are interested in building a pump track down at the soccer field. There is a shared septic system, which limits space. The far-right corner of the soccer field on the school side is the only suitable location. There is about 85ftx85ft of usable space. It would be volunteer built with donated materials. Ian and Gretchen Boswell have pledged some financial support from the Fall Fondo. Potential for adding a picnic bench, grill, and welcome sign, and they would like to work on the parking situation. They are hoping to turn the soccer field into more of a hub of recreation. There is potential for pledges for

longer term maintenance. Alfred noted that there needs to be consideration about the impact the project would have on the insurance. They are working on a potential design. Alfred has considered whether the water leak down there could be resolved at the same time. Molly commented that they will need to decide based on the impact to the insurance.

10. Ron Craig – Cemetery

- a. Thanked the Selectboard for reappointing him.
- b. He's having a trouble with the Kubota tractor. He would like to take it Berlin where it was purchased to get it fixed. He will be going over to get flags for the cemetery anyway, so he hopes to do it at the same time. Board agrees this makes sense.
- c. The upper big pine tree is coming down next week, so it will be busy up there.
- d. He has been working with Matt in regards to the mowing to show him what to watch out for.

11. Public comment - none

12. Approve minutes

- a. **William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
- b. **William moved to approve minutes from Thursday, May 9th, 2024, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

13. Review and approve bills

- a. **William moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**

14. Review correspondence

- a. Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief –Looking to update the 2003 International pumper truck. He has specifications and has spoken to salesmen. We need to move to replace it because the life expectancy is 25 years, there are no replacement parts, and the current wait time for a new truck is 3 years. The tanker would be paid off in 2026, providing good timing for new installments. He requests approval to put out bids.
 - i. **Andrea moved to approve Jeff Berwick put out bids, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**

15. William moves to adjourn at 07:39pm, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.

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