

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Molly Willard, Selectboard, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Richard Browne, Joe Layn,

Via Zoom: Mark E, John Reiss, Laurie Kozar, Tim McKay

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:35pm, Wednesday, June 19, 2024
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Animal Control Officer – see 8.
3. Highway Department Update – email from Jeremy Withers
 - a. Trucks and equipment are up and running.
 - b. Crew is working on ditching and grading.
 - c. He received culvert shipment – prioritizing “worst first” for replacement
 - d. First roadside mowing was completed. He will be back in a month.
 - e. Vandalized/Stolen/Misplaced signs have been ordered.
 - f. Jeremy will be out of town early July. Crew will be working while he’s gone.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Received anticipated order for town-wide reappraisal from the State. Last one was in 2019. The listers will work with the district advisor at PVR (Property Valuation and Review at Vermont Dept of Taxes) to come up with a reappraisal compliance plan. She’ll work on getting a sense of how much it will cost. Requested Selectboard sign for acknowledgement of order.
 - i. **Peter moved to sign the reappraisal order, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Rebecca will be at a meeting in July for a quarterly budget report.
5. Tree Board update – Joe Layn
 - a. Previous Ash borer plan provided. Joe noted that higher risk marking should be identified as priority. Need supplies and volunteers than can identify Ash trees from Basswood. Neil Monteith has the inventory. He will provide for advice for where to start. Discussion of how to mark and the materials needed. It will be a significant project. Discussion about how to find volunteers for marking, as it’s too much work for the tree board members alone. Alfred will reach out to Conservation Committee to see if they can help/find volunteers. Joe explained that they’ll need to prioritize based on high density and highest traveled roads. Trees out of right-of-way but that are still a potential hazard of falling into the right-of-way should be marked too. Anna confirmed that the Tree Board has a budget of \$1000 for materials. Selectboard will have to figure out how to implement the cutting later. Joe can help get quotes for cutting when the time comes. It could cause some disruptions. Peter will verify the account options for buying paint.
6. Town Hall Renovation update – Dick Browne

- a. MERP assessment from March arrived on Monday. Mostly boilerplate info. Dick says the main takeaway is the lack of insulation in the back and upstairs in the gym. It will be taken into consideration for the renovation. Assessment also provided info related to adding solar panels and electric vehicle chargers. Dick has not heard from NVDA yet about what the next step is. He hopes this will translate into some funding.
 - b. Dick heard from Vermont Preservation Trust about the building. They focused on the 4 windows that have never been replaced. Rusty is working on quotes to replace those (which PT would not fund), or redoing them (possible PT funding). They might also be able to provide other funding, but they strongly suggest we do a "condition assessment" meaning an historical architect inspect and make recommendations. That process costs \$500 to \$2000, but PT can pay for up to %50 of it. Dick is requesting permission to spend up to \$1000 for this assessment.
 - i. Laurie Kozar asked about utilizing window dresser inserts. She explained they are energy and cost efficient, and don't change the appearance. Dick confirmed the windows being discussed already have something similar, but since they are old, they are not efficient. The inserts do not allow them to open, so they are looking into options that would allow for that. Restoring them would be less expensive than replacing.
 - ii. **Peter moved to approve the spending not to exceed \$1000 for a historical architect to do a condition assessment on the Town Hall, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. All funding will only be available end of 2024 or in 2025, so renovation must wait because funding won't cover work already done. Green Mountain Power funds potentially available if town goes with heat pumps.
 - d. NVDA applied for Municipal Technical Assistance Program grant for us, but we didn't get it.
 - e. MERP assessment determines our eligibility for energy saving grant. The information will allow Dick to work on applying for other funds as well.
 - f. Alfred asked clarifying questions related to the MERP assessment and our guidance and grants.
7. Update to Open Meeting Laws
- a. Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, reviewed the Open Meeting Law updates. Our Selectboard is mostly on par with the new requirements already. One change she noted is that the recording must be posted. Need clarification whether or not minutes must be approved before recording is posted. Chair will be required to do some trainings. Laurie Kozar asked if the Zoom link could be embedded into the Town calendar schedule. Anna will look into it.
8. Animal Control Officer
- a. Danville ACO found some Peacham dogs and tried to reach the Selectboard members to help her deal with them, and was unable to by phone. She reached out to other Peacham residents to help find the dogs' owners. Alfred reached out to the Peacham resident about the dogs. This brought to the Selectboard's attention our need for an ACO. Previous attempts to fill the role has not been successful, but Nathan Colpitts has shown interest recently.
 - b. **Peter moved to appoint Nathan Colpitts as Animal Control Officer, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Peter commented that there are some trainings and some necessary equipment. Molly suggested that Nathan reach out to the Danville ACO. Alfred will reach out to Nathan.
9. Public comment
10. Approve minutes

- a. **Peter moved to approve minutes as presented by the clerk of the board from June 05th, 2024, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Review and approve bills
- a. **Peter moved to pay bills as presented by town treasurer, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Review correspondence
- a. Anonymous letter from concerned Peacham Pond resident – notifying Selectboard and Zoning Administrator that there is building activity occurring on a property, apparently without the required permits. Selectboard will get a copy of the letter to Bob Hansen, Zoning Admin.
 - b. Email about Animal Control – see 8.
 - c. Bruce Westcott – Treasurer of Peacham Congregational Church – plans to improve community access to meeting house through campaign funding. Bruce requested time to discuss it with the Selectboard and explained that he will need a signed letter of support in order to apply for funding. Clerk will invite to an upcoming meeting.
 - d. Larry Smith – VLCT Senior Loss Control Consultant – letter to discuss the pump track itemizing requirements.
13. Peter moved to adjourn at 07:36pm, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.