

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, July 3, 2024
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Andrea Kane, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief, Bruce Westcott, Anna Rubin, Allen Freund, Eric Pomeroy, Scott Beck

Via Zoom: William Kempton, Selectboard, Janie Carle, Adam Dobson, John Reiss

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 6:30pm, Wednesday, July 3, 2024
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Peter has a request from Jock Gill – to be addressed after the fire truck bids
 - b. Executive Session for personnel at the end of the meeting
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman
 - a. Back to a full crew currently, but Jeremy was given notice today for one crew member. Jeremy asked if the Selectboard would like to go into executive session to discuss it. Alfred confirmed he would.
 - b. Repairs on equipment have been finalized.
 - c. 802 Lawncare reached out about Peacham Pond plowing. He's interested in doing it again. He is willing to keep his rate if we can provide him some sand. Time to start thinking about it.
 - d. Time to order new lease for plow trucks. Companies unable order one until August. Discussion of option of lease, lease-to-own, or purchase outright. Jeremy will invite sales people to provide more details.
 - e. Jeremy will be gone for a week. Vermont State Police will have the contact phone numbers for crew in case they are needed.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Animal Control Officer is a paid position, how much for the partial term? It was not budgeted.
 - i. **Peter moved to pay the current Animal Control Officer \$500 for the remainder of this year if funds are available, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Education Tax rates arrived from the State. The Homestead rate is 1.9727 (an 18.3% increase since last year). The non-homestead rate is 1.6735 (a 6.51%

increase since last year). Selectboard will be able to set the town tax rate as soon as the Listers lodge the final 2024 grand list.

- c. Fire Department provided the Town Hall an AED to the Town Hall. Andrea Kane will be demonstrating how to use it at 9:15am on July 9th. This is open to the public. Rebecca requested help to install it beforehand. Peter volunteered.
 - d. Town Hall Renovation – it would be helpful to have one point of contact from the Selectboard. Alfred volunteered.
 - e. Town clerk received the ballots for the August 13th state primary. Voters can contact them for absentee ballots or can come into the office to vote in person. New state law prohibits firearms in polling places. The Town Hall building is considered a polling place between now and the election, so firearms are prohibited both on the walkway and in the building pursuant to 13 V.S.A.
5. Meeting House – Bruce Wescott, Treasurer of Peacham Congregational Church.
- a. Capital Fundraising campaign to make the meeting house a multipurpose facility that can be used for public events in the community. They would like to extend the rear of the meetinghouse. Both Church and Childcare Center are 501C3 non-profits. Improvements would include ADA compliant stairs, elevator, and bathroom, expanded storage and activity space, and historic preservation. Bruce provided a design of the proposed concept. Kitchen is a concern. The stairway is not built as an emergency stairway. They are applying for a grant for the Rural Economic Development Initiative, a grant program through the Housing Conservation Board, focused on community based economic development, such as historic preservation and community infrastructure. It is a matching funds program. Working with fundraising consultant, Christine Grahm, known for historic preservation work. Housing Conservation Board requires letter of support from Selectboard, but Bruce noted that no funds or action are being requested. Working with Larry Ruggles who has done preliminary design and estimate. One of the goals of the project is to make the space more multifunctional to avoid needing to ask town for financial help in the future as many local churches have had to do. Andrea and Peter both support the project.
 - b. Regarding a different grant, Bruce comment that the Church and Town Hall would both be applying for Community Development Block grants, but for separate funding. Bruce will come back to ask the town to make the grant application for a public facility managed by regional planning commission. Due to the nature of the grant, it has to be submitted by the town, but it would be separate from the Town Hall renovation application.
 - c. Alfred read the draft letter of support to those present.
 - i. **Peter moved to sign the letter of support, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
6. Peacham Pond Association – Allen Freund, member of Peacham Pond Association
- a. Allen commented he supports and appreciates the plowing on Peacham Pond.

- b. State set up regulations for wakeboarding. Peacham Pond Board discussed petitioning a ban on wake boards, but decided not to. They prepared a handout educating on regulations for wakeboard sport use, which he provided to Selectboard members. The issue with wake boats are the potential to bring in invasive species. Greeter program inspects and educates as well.
 - c. NRCS has funded renovations of the boat ramp. They have a plan that will reduce the amount of silt that goes into the pond. There will be a lot of fill that comes out of the project, which could be used for parking area shoulder that impedes on road, making hard for fire truck to pass. Asked about discussing it with property owner, Chuck White, even though it's a right of way. Jeremy feels the responsibility should fall on the State project manager to enter into contact with the owner, even though it's a town right-of-way. He feels it's important to communicate with the landowners to avoid issues, and consider how it might affect the town. Discussion about the degree to which the town should be involved, and the process for how to move forward. Anna encouraged the newer board members to refer to minutes about the previous discussions regarding expanding the parking area.
7. Town Hall Renovation update – Rusty Barber – unable to attend.
8. Planning Commission Zoning Regulations – Anna Rubin
- a. Anna has followed the steps necessary to make amendments to the Zoning Regulations, and is back to formally submit the proposed changes to Zoning regulations. Most of the changes would align Peacham bylaws State Statute.
 - b. Formally submitting the changes to ask for Selectboard approval. She will confirm whether Selectboard needs to hold a public hearing. Alfred requested an itemize list of the changes. Anna will send a marked copy to the Selectboard, they would like to review it before approving.
9. Fire Department bid opening – Jeff Berwick
- a. Bulldog – Freightliner Commercial Cab and Chassis bid – 2 proposals: commercial cab \$469,898, custom cab – \$679,898
 - b. Four Guys – Freightliner Commercial Cab \$697,781
 - c. Shaker – Freightliner Commercial Cab and Chassis 1500 gallon/min \$651,215 (same company we purchased tanker in 2020.)
 - d. Approximate delivery time 3 years for all. International couldn't estimate a time for a cab and chassis. Jeff doesn't feel it's necessary to order a custom cab. Alfred asked about funding process. Jeff explained 7-year lease procedure. Discussion on how to potentially gather funds. Jeff asked if he could look through the bids and come back with a proposal. Peter moved that the board takes Jeff's consideration and thoughts about what will benefit the town the best. Jeff will send a response to the bidders. Jeremy asked about holding prices. Toby Talbot explained that surcharges are often applied, but are included in the bid, and refunded if not applied. There are new industry admissions regulations for diesel

engines, meaning there could be \$50,000-80,000 additional in charges for engines. If we order soon, we might be able to get an older engine, but there is no guarantee. Jeff explained that it's critical to get a new one ordered because if our pump broke, it would be nearly impossible to find parts.

10. Peter reported that Jock Gill asked Selectboard for \$120 to print and frame a photo of the monuments on the top of the hill to present to Allen Thresher Sr to show appreciation for his work. Andrea asked if this has been done in the past. Alfred agrees it's a modest amount to show appreciation. He also suggested the photo be the cover of the town report.
 - a. **Andrea moved to approve the spending as long as the Town Treasurer can find the funds in the budget, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Public comment
 - a. Scott Beck – Vermont State representative, came to visit to check in on the towns. Selectboard members thanked him for joining.
12. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from June 19th, 2024 seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
13. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
14. Review correspondence
 - a. Katherine Siner – request to use tables from the gym for a function. Selectboard agreed.
 - b. Bob Hansan has taken action on possible zoning violation out in Peacham Pond
 - c. Ramp solicitation to sell ramps for pump track.
 - d. PCH – Looking for appointment for their board, as per their bylaws. Alfred will ask Jake Thomas for recommendations before they decide to appoint someone.
 - e. Alfred reached out to Steve Engle for an update on sign project, but has not heard back, but has seen that Steve is making progress.
15. Executive Session
 - a. **Peter moved to enter executive session at 8:10pm, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Came out of executive session no action taken at 8:26pm.
16. Peter moves to adjourn at 8:27pm, 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.