

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Jonathan Kaplan, Laurie Kozar, Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:32pm, on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Abatement request for property donated by the Audubon Society in East Peacham. The Board of Civil Authority will need to review it.
 - i. **Peter moved to request an abatement of 2024 taxes in a full amount for the previous Audubon Society property, which is now owned by the town of Peacham, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
3. Highway Department Update – via email from Jeremy Withers
 - a. The new truck has not arrived because we are waiting for a new exhaust brake sensor, but he hopes to get the truck on Friday.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Final payroll for John Sheenan and a fire department member
 - b. Final 2024 budget and 2025 budget provided, including a note about unexpended funds to be carried over and the amount to be raised in taxes. She also included a spreadsheet to explain the unexpended funds.
 - c. Results of the 2024 Equalization study are in the correspondence.
 - d. Rate of pay change forms for the cost-of-living increase for transfer station employees need to be signed.
5. 2025 Project Planning
 - a. Ash trees – Alfred would like high risk ash trees to be identified and marked (within the right-of-ways), as well as a plan, timeline, and cost estimate for removal by the end of the year. Christian will be the point person with Tree Board to get it organized.
 - b. Cow Hill and town forest access discussion needs to be finalized. The issues include determining legal access, allowing or prohibiting gates, and an overall conversation assessing the town forest use and accessibility. Molly asked about a forest management plan, which we have. Discussion summarizing the concerns and how legal advice is needed. Molly will be the point person.
 - c. Town Hall renovation project – Christian and Alfred met with another HVAC contractor to get more information. Rusty Barber hopes to have all the information for a final bid package ready by the end of January so he can put out a request for bids. Alfred will be the point person on this, with support from Christian.
 - d. Recreation committee – further development of the pump track/soccer field including a potential gravel loop for walking or riding. This could include the Fire District’s pipe concern. Alfred is the point person.
 - e. School emergency shelter development project – William is the point person.

6. Public comment
 - a. Jonathan Kaplan – \$5000 appropriation request for the Fire District. Last year’s request was much higher, but it was a one-time request, so he wasn’t sure if he needed a petition to decrease the request back to the usual \$5000. William noted that they decided they did not need a petition, and that they could accept his request. Jonathan asked if there could be a town posting of the deadline for appropriations for future years.
7. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from Thursday, December 18, 2025 and Monday, December 30, 2024 as presented by the clerk of the board, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented by the town treasurer, seconded Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Review correspondence
 - a. 2024 Equalization Study results. Our common level of appraisal is 69.27%. Discussion about what this means. We have already gotten notice of reappraisal. Molly explained that it equalizes the education tax.
10. Peter moved to adjourn at 7:04pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

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