

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Peter Craig, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 6:30pm, Wednesday, March 5, 2025
2. Selectboard organization
 - a. Elect a Chair
 - i. **Christian moved to elect Alfred as Selectboard chair, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. Peter explained how chair was selected historically. Molly felt it should be whoever is willing to do it. Will commented that he felt Alfred has been doing well. Alfred commented that he felt he'd like to follow through with the to-do list he had started, but he wanted to make sure Peter was comfortable with it. Anna clarified that the agenda was finalized by the chair.
 - b. Determine meeting rules
 - i. Anna explained that last year they had revised and adopted a template provided by VLCT rather than Robert's Rules. They could confirm the details of those rules and readopt it, or they could revise the updated template from VLCT in a similar fashion. Alfred commented that he was satisfied with the rules from last year. Peter asked it be posted and sent to a resident. Anna clarified that while these are our chosen rules, we are still subject to Open Meeting law. Peter asked about the public comment section allotted to each item versus the public comment item on the agenda. Alfred commented that the public often has important information that could impact their decision-making, so he'd like to keep that option. Will felt it was important to leave the item in the agenda to allow for any other topics too. Peter suggested including "non-binding business" to the public comment item.
 - ii. **Will moved to adopt the rules of procedure as presented by the Selectboard clerk, seconded by Christian all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Determine date and time of meetings
 - i. **Peter moved to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
3. Additions to the agenda – none
4. Highway Department Update with Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman
 - a. Certification of compliance needs to be signed for VTrans
 - b. Confirm contact information to be sent to VTrans
 - c. FEMA came and did some site visits, and will be here again next week.
 - i. On Governor Maddocks Rd, requesting a decision. Alfred still wants a site visit with both VTrans and Rivers and Stream to get a clear answer about our options. Jeremy has some concerns about the water flow. Work will have to be contracted out.
 - ii. Will need a decision on Mill Trace Bridge. Jeremy needs an engineer to confirm the base is still structurally sound. FEMA will put back what was there (the wooden beams). Peter proposed putting the bridge back then throwing up the road. Will asked about past discussion. Jeremy suggested speaking with the resident. Peter says the resident has firmly stated she would like the bridge put back. Jeremy questioned why wed would

throw up the road if we put the bridge back. Alfred commented that if it's only re-decking is all it needs, then it should be put back, but Christian commented how we'd need to know it's in good enough condition. Will asked if it needs structural work, would FEMA help pay. Jeremy thinks not, unless it falls under mitigation money. Alfred asked if the State would provide the engineers if that were the case, but Jeremy is unsure. Board agrees that the bridge needs to be inspected. Jeremy will reach out to VTrans to schedule that, then discuss it with the resident.

- iii. Jeremy has scheduled a ride around with Norm Patno from Pike to gain insight and advise about how to best/most efficiently spend the money for the paving. He is still considering the best place to repave first. He is thinking the road from the South Peacham stop signs to Maple Tree lane would be a good idea in order to save it.
 - iv. Equipment and trucks working well. Moving snow to help control the flow of water.
5. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update with Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk
- a. Calx contract needs to be signed, including first 3 payments. It's behind because it went to her spam folder, so needs action.
 - i. **Peter moved to approve the Calx contract, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. She asked that the TAN and mowing contract be on the next agenda.
 - c. Selectboard Essentials training coming up – She recommends board members attend. There is a required ethics training they need to do as well.
6. Selectboard Appointments
- a. Selectboard Clerk
 - i. **Peter moved to appoint Anna Carvalho as Selectboard Clerk, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Cemetery Committee
 - i. **Peter moved to appoint Karen Gallas and Karen Lewis to 3-year terms, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Cemetery Sexton
 - i. **William moved to appoint Ron Craig as Cemetery Sexton, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - d. Conservation Commission
 - i. **Peter moved to reappoint Michelle Morton to a 3-year term on the Conservation Commission, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - e. CUD Representative
 - i. **Christian moved to appoint Jock Gill and Karen Lewis to a 1-year terms, seconded by William all in favor, so moved.**
 - f. Development Review Board
 - i. **Peter moved to appoint Anna Rubin and Rusty Barber for 3-year terms to the Development Review Board, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. Discussion about recruiting new members.
 - g. Energy Committee
 - i. **Peter moved to reappoint Bruce Courtot and Bruce Westcott for 3-year terms for the Energy Committee, seconded by Christian all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. Empty seat to fulfill remainder of Allie Webster's term, and empty alternate seat.
 - h. Emergency Management Coordinator and alternate
 - i. Neil recommended Robert Starbuck and has offered to train him.
 - ii. **Peter moved to appoint Robert Starbuck to a 1-year term as Emergency Management Coordinator, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - iii. Alternate position is empty. Selectboard will look for recommendations.
 - i. 911 Coordinator

- i. Anna explained this role benefits from being a Lister. Sarah Lydon is no longer a Lister, but she said she is willing to fill the role temporarily until a new Lister can take over, and she is willing to train them.
 - ii. **Peter moved to reappoint Sarah Lydon as 911 Coordinator, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - j. Fence Viewers
 - i. **Peter moved to reappoint all current members as Fence Viewers for a term of one year, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - k. Fire Chief
 - i. **Christian moved to appoint Jeff Berwick to a 1-year term, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
 - l. Green Up Chair
 - i. **Peter moved to reappoint Rose Dedam as Green Up Chair, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - m. Deputy Health Officer
 - i. Empty position. Tabled. List of potential people to reach out to.
 - n. Animal Control Officer
 - i. **Peter moved to appoint Nathan Colpitts to a 3-year term as Keeper of the pound, seconded by Christian.**
 - ii. Still need to find some available training, although Nathan is knowledgeable already.
 - iii. Barnet Selectboard asked if he would be willing to do Barnet as well.
 - o. Memorial Day Chair
 - i. Discussion about role
 - ii. Empty position – tabled appointment – Peter and Alfred will work on finding someone.
 - p. NEKWMD Representative
 - i. **Peter moved to recommend Amber Lowell as the NEKWMD representative for a term of 1-year, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - q. NVDA Representative
 - i. **William moved to appoint Christian Snow to a 3-year term as NVDA representative, seconded by Peter, all in favor so moved.**
 - r. Planning Commission
 - i. **Peter moved to appoint Katherine Siner, Marilyn Magnus, and Doug Morton for 3-year terms on the Planning Commission, and, seconded by William all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. **Will moved to appoint Christian Snow for a 1-year term as alternate to the Planning Commission, seconded by Peter, so moved.**
 - s. Recreation Committee
 - i. **Peter moved to reappoint all members on the Recreation Committee for a term of 1 year, seconded by Christian all in favor, so moved.**
 - t. Service Officer
 - i. **Christian moved to appoint Nichole Wolfgang to a 1-year term as Service Officer, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - u. Tree Board
 - i. **William moved to appoint Neil Monteith and Laurie Kozar to the Tree Board for terms of 3 years, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - v. Tree Warden
 - i. **Peter moved to appoint Jason Bean as Tree Warden, seconded by William all in favor, so moved.**
 - w. Deputy Tree Warden
 - i. Peter will talk to Jason for a recommendation for a deputy
- 7. Public comment
- 8. Approve minutes

- a. **Peter moved to approve minutes as presented by the clerk of the Selectboard from Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented by Town Treasurer, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
10. Review correspondence
 - a. Email from Dr. Danielson – Molly has not yet reached out to VTrans, but she will wait for his follow up email to ensure she can provide the feedback needed. Alfred recommended reaching out the VLCT too.
 - b. Letter from Steven Engle – brief vacation, but will continue to work on signs.
 - c. Phone call from Bob Bartell would like a discussion about access to the town forest and the gates. Molly asked for suggestions for process. Alfred was given a contact for a lawyer, Mike Tarrant, who is a specialist for historic road matters. We have budget for it, and it has already been approved to reach out, so she will start there. Alfred recommended a site visit as well.
11. William moves to adjourn at 7:54pm 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.