

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Ron Craig, Robert Starbuck, Neil Monteith, Rusty Barber

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Cemetery Discussion – Ron Craig
 - i. Tree in cemetery that is causing issues. He got one quote from Snapping Turtle Tree Works LLC for \$3500, and has been waiting for another. It is over budget, so they need to discuss it with Rebecca.
 - ii. Peter commented that the tree budget for the cemetery needs to be increased.
 - iii. Ron asked about a stump that needs to come out that has impacted a headstone. Alfred asked for a quote to get it pulled.
 - iv. There is a lawn mower in the garage just sitting there. He asked about selling it. He needs to put it out to bid. Ron will bring the info to the next meeting.
3. Highway Department Update
 - a. Equipment update – tandem axle truck back in service. Grader might need some significant maintenance. They are making some adjustments to see if they can find the issue.
 - b. Guard rail pricing – some will be covered by FEMA, some our cost. \$10,000-\$15,000 for approximately 900 ft, but there is nothing in the guard rail budget. Asked if we should hold off and budget it for it next year. Discussion about the area and how to prioritize the need.
 - c. He hired an excavator contractor for Rake Factory Rd to change some pipes the week of June 2nd. It will be closed during the day for that work. Closure will be posted.
 - d. Week of June 16th Peacham/Danville Rd work will start. That road will be closed temporarily as well. The closure will be posted.
 - e. Alfred spoke with Patrick Ross for an estimate for survey and design work for the lower portion of Gov Mattocks for the minimum work necessary to protect the homes in South Peacham in case they decide not to build back to the road. Alfred explained some of Patrick's initial thoughts. Discussion about how to budget for that and whether FEMA will cover any of it. Discussion about understanding whether rebuilding the road back will help or harm the region. The is concern is determining which would be more expensive, only armoring the brook ourselves or getting FEMA support to build the road back as well as all the necessary mitigation. Jeremy explained the FEMA will offer some mitigation support, but they cannot get solid numbers from FEMA if the town hasn't committed to putting the road back because FEMA works with reimbursement rather than estimates.

- f. Alfred reached out to Emily Finnegan about some problem areas that are outside of the right-of-way because they are potential hazard to our infrastructure. She would need a list of locations and projects to see how she could help. The areas Jeremy is thinking of could be taken care of by the town.
- 4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update
 - a. Contract for the renovation are ready to be signed.
 - b. Two cemetery deeds needing to be signed. One is new, one is corrected.
 - i. **Peter moved to accept and sign the two cemetery deeds, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Regarding a tent request, she needs a point person. Alfred will reach out as point person.
- 5. Renovation update – Rusty Barber
 - a. Signed the contractors agreement so that he can sign his subs. Rusty needs to start speaking with them and schedule meetings.
 - b. Meeting between contractor and clerk about logistics about keeping the town and post office in business during the construction.
 - c. Efficiency Vermont needs updates on energy improvements in order to provide some funds.
 - d. Site work at the back of the building will need to be first. Contractor thinks it may not need to be waterproofed. Excavation to correct drainage still needs to happen and some work for the covers for heat pumps. Rusty would like someone to check the foundation for waterproofing. Peter commented that there had been leakage in the past, so that clarifies that the work needs to be done.
 - e. We need a permit for the work from the State, but the State will not waive it for Rusty. There a potential architect who might do it, but it would take some time and money. Rusty explained how that might work. Board asked Rusty to pursue it.
 - f. There is a \$47,610.71 refund to make up the difference between tax collected for the school and amount paid to school. How the money is spent would need to be voted on by the town, but there is a potential to use it towards the renovation.
 - g. Alfred, William, and Rusty met with Lime Green Heat to explore swapping out the propane boiler for a pellet boiler. There is potential to save money and help move away from fossil fuels. They will come back with a proposal. Rebecca sent a report about problems with the current boiler installation that will need to be addressed.
- 6. Development Review Board – Rusty Barber
 - a. Adam Dobson is the chair, but he needs administrative support. Marilyn Magnus won't be able to support him. Looking to find someone to help.
- 7. Emergency Management Plan – Robert Starbuck
 - a. Provided Local Emergency Management Plan that needs to be approved. It is State required. Robert explained what is in the plan.
 - i. **Peter moved to adopt the Peacham Local Emergency Management Plan, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. Neil stated for the record, "I hereby certify that the LEMP meets Vermont National Management Systems requirements and current LEMP Implementation Guidance."
 - iii. Alfred stated for the record, "I hereby attest that the municipality has adopted NIMS and the LEMP at the warned public meeting."
- 8. Stump dump discussion

- a. It's getting full. Need excavation to push it off. Alfred will reach out to Kirby Mulch Company. Peter commented that some grinding would be helpful, but it will come at a cost.
- 9. Public comment
 - a. Ron Craig commented that parking is getting tough at the Town Offices and asked about parking on the old tennis courts. Alfred will check in on the easement status.
 - b. Anna suggested informing organizers of events and the rec committee about upcoming renovation work in order to be able to plan accordingly.
- 10. Approve minutes
 - a. Two corrections for minutes from May 7th, 2025
 - i. 14a – Mike Tarrant will not be on site for the meeting at Worcester Rd.
 - ii. 14e – Ryan Chapell instead of Seth Chapel has been appointed to the tree board.
 - iii. **Peter moved to accept minutes as edited from Wednesday, May 7th, 2025, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
- 11. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
- 12. Review correspondence
 - a. Peter followed up with other towns, and confirmed that landfill is charging \$50 for mattresses, so we need to adjust our charges again.
 - b. Email from Avery Cisne the Peacham Cafe about potentially being open on Friday evening with BYOB. The State says a BYOB policy is up to the town, but Rebecca found that the town does not have any ordinances regarding BYOB, therefore does not have the authority to regulate BYOB establishments. She suggested as a courtesy to reach out to the Selectboard anyway. None of the board members voiced concerns.
- 13. Executive Session for personnel
 - a. **Peter moved to move into executive session for personal at 8:08pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Exited at 8:24pm, no action taken
- 14. Peter moves to adjourn at 8:24pm, 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.