

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Friday, May 2, 2025
Selectboard Special Meeting
Governor Mattock's Rd

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Molly Willard, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Logan Perron, VTrans, Patrick Ross, River Management Engineer for State of Vermont

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 09:04am, on Friday, May 2nd, 2025.
2. Governor Mattocks Rd discussion
 - a. Group walked up along Gov Mattocks to analyze the different sections of road, with Selectboard members asking for recommendations from Logan Perron and Patrick Ross.
 - b. Regarding debris: recommended it be remove or cut up into pieces so it doesn't block anything if it washes down stream.
 - c. Brook bed: The brook has cut down to the glacial till in sections, so it's harder and harder to stabilize because it's a deeper channel. Riprap on banks would need to go a lot deeper and farther down, which would pinch off the channel flow. Town should look for some strategic ways to armor the bed. One possibility would to be use the existing boulders as a base to rebuild the brook bed and slow the water down. Goal of armoring the bed would be to bring the bed up and spread the water out. Banks are vulnerable, so if we built the road back, they will eventually erode with inevitable other high water events.
 - d. Discussion about necessary stabilization of the stream to protect homes. Regardless of whether or not the town builds the road back, the stream is still jeopardizing the homes in the area, and some work will be necessary.
 - e. Stream stabilization without rebuilding the road is less likely to be covered by FEMA. Discussion that without FEMA support, it would be far too expensive to fix. FEMA will not replace existing culverts. Unless a structure is more than 50% damaged, they will not replace it. Some funds may be available from Hazard Mitigation grants, but it is not guaranteed. The application process itself is a significant amount of time, effort, and money.
 - f. To bring it back to base level by opening the road up and making it safe, it would likely cost multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars. There could be overlap for road rebuild and stream reconstruction. Town needs to find out from FEMA what would be covered under FEMA. Town is waiting to get some numbers from FEMA after a recent visit. Town needs to consider what the initial FEMA cost assessment

may leave out. Continued discussion about what would be considered emergency funding versus mitigation costs, but it remains unclear. The longer we wait, the less eligible the project will be for emergency funding, however some nearby towns that spent the money initially still have not been reimbursed.

- g. Banks and channel bottom stabilization needs to be a part of *any* project. The area is very vulnerable. Rebuilding without significant stabilization work would likely end up with another incident of the road breaking down.
 - h. If the town throws up the road, we would still need to follow statute, even though it's due to the storm. Both Patrick and Logan commented that throwing up the road would be understandable in this particular situation, but emphasized the importance of documenting the reasoning and following the processes carefully. They advised getting legal council.
3. Peter moved to adjourn at 10:05am, 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.