

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
Selectboard Special Meeting
In-person meeting at Governor Mattocks Rd

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Emily Finnegan, CCNRCD District Manager, Karina Morales, CCNRCD, Ben Copans, VT DEC as a Watershed planner, Evelyn Boardman, VT DEC River Scientist, Jaron Borg, Rivers Management Engineer, Dean Bornstein, Tim McKay

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 01:07pm, on Wednesday, June 25th, 2025.
2. Discussion with Emily Finnegan about water quality steps to support hazard mitigation on Governor Mattocks Road
 - a. Introductions by those present.
 - b. Emily explained that CCNRCD could facilitate as grant administrator if the project focus is a clean water/natural resources project. Alfred explained that the Selectboard is seeking information about the current decision at hand, which to either apply for FEMA and rebuild the road or throw it up and take mitigation steps to protect South Peacham. The FEMA estimate is 1.95 million, which would mean the town would be liable for approximately \$154,000. Alfred and Tim noted their concern about whether FEMA money would come through for it. The board members are interested in learning more about the options for if the road was thrown up or any negative impacts of putting it back.
 - c. Discussion about how the river flowed before the 2024 flood.
 - d. Alfred confirmed that if they threw up the road, they would still like to maintain a legal trail status.
 - e. Alfred presented some of the concerning spots referencing their previous discussion with Patrick Ross. Discussion continued along the road path about potential issues and mitigation, focusing on the impact on the homes in South Peacham
 - f. Emily explained how the grant project would work if we went that route, and that ideally anything falling under the clean water project would be fully funded. But the next step would be better defining the target areas and goals. There are some elements that the clean water funding could not cover, namely armoring. The clean water funding source would not be available if it was a road-building project. The design work and implementation wouldn't likely be until 2027. Tim asked where the preliminary engineering funding would come from, and Emily confirmed it would be under the clean water funding. If the town is interested in

throwing up the road, she could apply for 100% of funds, but pause after the preliminary design to make sure the town wanted to move forward with it.

- g. Discussion of next steps: What wouldn't be covered? What do residents want? What is the legal process to throw up the road?
 - h. Discussion about the aspects that would not be covered and how to define those costs. The main issue being redirecting the water back into the river bed if it flows down the old road bed again.
 - i. Work on the river through the clean water funding is not a guarantee, but it would help with the protection of the area. Working in conjunction with the land that would become floodplain after the buyout process would be even more beneficial.
3. Christian moved to adjourn at 2:12pm, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.

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