

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, July 2, 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, Molly Willard, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Ron Craig

Via Zoom: Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:32pm, on Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Executive session for personnel to get whole board up to date.
 - i. **Peter moved to enter executive session at 7:24pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. **Peter moved to come out of executive session at 7:45pm with no action taken, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Gym Cleaning
 - i. The cleaner in mind was not able to do the work for the town, so need to find someone. Alfred will ask Rebecca to post the position.
3. Highway Department Update from Jeremy Withers
 - a. Work on Peacham-Danville Rd is almost wrapped up. Pike will be in end of July to put the pavement down, then the guardrails will hopefully be in by early August.
 - b. Reached out to engineers for Mill Trace Bridge project. One has interest and offered a suggestion: instead of replacing wood deck bridge for \$48,0000, he suggested improving it by using concrete planks, but it would be closer to \$65,000. Jeremy wanted to know if the board thought it would be worth investigating it, which they do. Last bridge inspection in 2023 passed, but there are steal pieces that need to be changed and it was suggested that concrete planks might be preferable, per Logan Perrin. He's not sure if it would change the bridge rating, but regardless the bridge is rated for the necessary equipment. This engineer would be interested in starting in fall/winter, with planks ready to set in spring. The concrete planks would make the bridge slightly higher. The outer planks would have holes for bolts or attach guardrail directly. Jeremy will ask FEMA about those potential changes and how it would impact the project financially.
 - c. Alfred spoke to Ryan Chapell who has concerns about trees encroaching on the road, and wanted to know if anything could be done. Jeremy said something might be able to be done, but explained that some residents want it to be cut back, but others do not.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Finally started receiving money from FEMA for last year's flooding: \$140,338.61 last week, which was the FEMA share for four of the projects: Old Cemetery Rd, Hollow

Wood Rd, Aiken Farm Rd, Mack's Mountain Rd, Slack St, and multiple sites on Green Bay Loop. We're still working with them to receive reimbursement for the other projects/disaster sites throughout town. Will use this reimbursement to help pay down the Flood Repair Line of Credit.

- b. Borrowed from the Tax Anticipation Note for the first time this year to cover today's AP expenses.
 - c. The listers are in the process of lodging the 2025 Grand List, with grievance hearings being held on July 8th. Should be able to set the tax rate at the July 20th Selectboard meeting, which will allow her to mail out tax bills.
 - d. We received the education tax rates from the state.
5. Open Cemetery mower bids
 - a. Recieved 3 bids:
 - i. Dani Cochran: \$525.00 - highest bid
 - ii. Rob Ruffner: \$350.00
 - iii. Dylan Gombas: \$216.00
 - b. Ron reported he got the large stump in the cemetery removed.
 - c. Big pine tree removal got delayed. Should be done the 9th of July.
6. Peacham Disaster Recovery Auxiliary Committee formation
 - a. Alfred provided the charter to the members of the board. Updated that members would be appointed annually for terms.
 - i. **Peter moved to adopt the charter for the Peacham Disaster Recovery Auxiliary, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. **Peter moved to nominate Alfred Dedam as the chair for the PDRA, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Alfred will bring recommendations for the board to next meeting. He is working on getting the materials with the grant money.
7. PCH Easement update
 - a. Alfred did not get the update for this yet. He reiterated that he got verbal permission to use the access during the renovation. He will find the survey to review.
8. Governor Mattocks Road review and next steps
 - a. Alfred reviewed and explained the special meeting field visit with Emily Finnegan, with the focus on identifying Clean Water projects. Clean water projects would be 100% funded, but we would be liable for mitigation issues. Discussion about the FEMA option versus clean water option, and how ideally it would be two clear options to present to the tax payers, but it's complicated. The next steps for the clean water option is getting legal council for reclassifying the road. In the meantime, they will continue to get information from FEMA and Emily Finnegan. They need to check with Rebecca about how much funding is in the legal budget.
 - i. **Peter moved to make contact with Mike Terrant pending the outcome with a conversation with Rebecca regarding the legal budget line item, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Public comment – none
10. Approve minutes

- a. Peter moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, June 18, 2025, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.
 - b. William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, June 25, 2025 special meeting at Governor Mattocks Rd, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.
 - c. Peter moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, June 25, 2025 special meeting at the town offices, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.
- 11. Review and approve bills
 - a. Peter moved to approve and pay all bills as presented by treasurer, seconded Christian, all in favor, so moved.
- 12. Review correspondence
 - a. Alfred spoke to a South Peacham resident about her concern for the aesthetics of homes in the village. Discussed rules about number of vehicles allowed. Alfred will reach out to the Zoning Administrator for guidance.
 - b. Alfred discussed the trees over the road with Ryan Chapell
 - c. Multiple emails commending Amber Lowell's service at the transfer station.
 - d. James from Casella called about the compactor steel plates that need to be replaced. Need to find out price. Alfred will reach out to Casella about standard specifications, so they can reach out to contractors. Peter commented that the railings for the bulky waste dumpster are broken again, and suggested finding a quote for a concrete wall replacement.
- 13. Christian moves to adjourn at 7:45pm, 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.