

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library upstairs and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Andrea Otto, Selectboard, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Ron Craig, Dave Stauffer

Via Zoom: Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025
2. Additions to the agenda – none
3. Highway Department Update with Jeremy Withers
 - a. Grants-in-aid project on Bayley Hazen – doing ditching, stone lining, changing culverts– should finish next week.
 - b. Paving completed on Danville-Peacham Rd last Thurs. Came out well. Still have shoulder work to do. Guardrail coming week of 25th of Aug.
 - c. Mill Trace Bridge – Meeting with FEMA last week confirmed they will only put back wood deck. Won't do any mitigation, so anything extra will be on us. Abutments would have to be moved for cement planks to be put in, making it more expensive. \$48,000 is all FEMA will offer for the replacement work. Looking for a decision so he can give it to the engineer. He will talk to him about putting back to what it was.
 - d. Bank stabilization project on Slack St: river has changed it's path permanently, taking (will take) the edge of the road, so needs to put in some large rock. Met with Jarron Borg of Rivers and Streams, who agreed it needs to be done. Project is not in the budget. Jeremy is hoping \$15,000-\$20,000 for the work. He is hoping the Danville-Peacham Road comes in under budget to help compensate. The excavator work should be under the \$15,000 limit for going out to bid. Discussion about power line pole.
 - e. Minor breakdowns with trucks and equipment. Trying to get everything resolved. One of the trucks is headed to Allegiance on Monday. Discussion about graders and mowers.

4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update with Rebecca Washington
 - a. Budget Status Report:
 - i. Borrowed \$220,000 from tax anticipation note so far. Tax bills will go out next week.
 - ii. Budgeted revenue source of \$100,000 in retreatment fund transferred over to pay the retreatment bills.
 - iii. Just received \$197,000 from FEMA from last year's projects. Paid off about 90% of the project so far, and we should be ok to pay off the rest by the due date in December. After all FEMA money is received, the state share will come, probably not until next year. We paid more than our share of 7.5%, so we are getting more back.
 - iv. Renovation bills starting to come in – Board will keep signing them.
 - v. Still waiting on the large FEMA project decision discussed last meeting. It's still in approval process, but she doesn't expect it to take longer than due date. Our part is taken care of. We spent some of our own money too, so when that reimbursement comes in, it will be used to repay the line of credit, and to refill the funds of ours we used.
 - b. Regarding FEMA buyouts: Recommendation from the State for the two properties FEMA is buying out on Gov Maddocks is to do phase 1 environmental assessments. It would involve researching the documents and history for liability purposes, as the town will become responsible for the land. We would have to pay for it: \$3-5,000 per house. Some funding may be available. She's working on finding out who we could get to do this and a better estimate. Christian will help with this.
 - c. Small digitization project needs to be done. She got a quote for \$1100, which is more than she thinks is necessary. It's not budgeted, but it uses restoration land record funds, so it doesn't come from tax dollars. She is thinking of getting some help doing it in house.
5. Set 2025 Municipal Tax Rate
 - a. Education tax rates from from the state. Rebecca presented the Grand List Computations, with the tax rate coming to 1.134. Including education tax rate, the total homestead rate is increasing by 8.2%, and the total non-residential rate is increasing by 14.85%. It's unfortunate how much it's going up, but it was expected.
 - i. **Peter moved to accept the tax rate, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
6. Cemetery Deed

- a. **Peter moved to accept the cemetery deed as presented, Christian seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
- 7. Zoning Administrator appointment – tabled until next meeting
- 8. Transfer Station assistant
 - a. **Peter moved to hire the assistant, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Hire date effective August 8th, 2025. Special meeting on Friday, August 8th 5:00pm at the Town Office.
- 9. PCH easement update – none
- 10. Tree Board update
 - a. Meeting scheduled second week of Sept. Christian spoke with Neil Monteith, who is reaching out to other towns to see what process they have used for the ash wood. Alfred asked him to work on an inventory in the meantime, and do the marking. There is money in the budget to do that. Discussion about an open meeting. Ron asked who the Tree Warden is. Board confirmed it's Jason Bean.
- 11. PDRA appointments
 - a. **Alfred moved to appointment Allen Freud, Alex MacLean, Rose Dedam, Ian Boswell, Melissa Hough, and Christian Snow, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
- 12. Public comment
 - a. Ron asked about getting a sign restored during the renovation. Alfred will reach out to Rusty. Dave Stauffer offered to do it.
- 13. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, July 16, 2025, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
- 14. Review and approve bills
 - a. Building permit application to sign
 - b. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Rebecca explained some of the Aps and invoices.
- 15. Review correspondence
 - a. Peter is still waiting to hear back from contractors about doing the transfer station slab and tentative quotes.
 - b. John Reiss was upset because no one was responding to his emails, but Alfred discovered that he was not receiving the emails that should have been forwarded via the website, so Alfred spoke to Rebecca and got it resolved. Regarding the content of the emails, Alfred has asked John for clarification before responding.

- c. Jeff Lamphere concerned about spending a lot of money on the Mill Trace Bridge and the body voicing political opinions during the meeting.
- d. Eric Pomeroy expressing concern about moving the power across the street on Slack St.
- e. Corey Reiner at NEKWMB email updates
- f. Karen Lewis spoke with Alfred about Worcester Cemetery. It's overgrown because it's not being maintained because the town doesn't have a deed right of way to it. Alfred asked her for permission to use his goats to trim the overgrowth, which she approved, but it was unsuccessful.
- g. Alfred reached out to a contractor in CT who has a mechanized tree service. He's willing to bring the equipment up. They'd send a scout first. Need the tree inventory first.
- h. Apology letter from Robert Bender for his actions at the children's bike parade on July 4th, 2024.
- i. Matt Foster at Caledonia Central Supervisory Union reached out to give Zoom security advice. Discussion about options and open meeting limitations. Anna shared that she will be creating new Zoom links for each meeting.
- j. Alfred spoke with Katherine Siner about looking into crowd control for 4th of July Tractor Parade.

16. Peter moves to adjourn at 7:44pm, 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.