

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, September 17, 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, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Andrea Otto, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Emily Finnegan, Rusty Barber

Via Zoom: Amber Lowell, Janie Carle, John Reiss

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:31pm, on Wednesday, September 17, 2025
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Approve minutes from Special Town Meeting
 - i. **Peter moved the approve the minutes from the 2025 special town meeting, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
3. Highway Department Update with Jeremy Withers
 - a. Slack St project almost complete. Jeremy is satisfied with how it turned out.
 - b. Roadside mower arrived, so they've been working with it as much as they can.
 - c. Email from Katherine Siner about crosswalk signs and signage to slow people down. There are more kids walking to school. Jeremy explained that the old ones got destroyed. Christian feels it's worth it if it slows people down. Jeremy explained that our sign budget is used up for the year, so it would be extra. Concern about how quickly the signs get destroyed. He's working on fixing the radar sign as well. Jeremy suggested reaching out to the sheriff for next year, and considering options for next year's budget.
 - d. Peacham Pond plowing – Seth at 802 Lawn Care is willing to do the plowing again for the same price, if we provide the sand again.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. \$30,000 ACT 27 economic impact payment for flood repairs will be issued to Peacham – will cover the cost of the Slack St project, since it was caused by flooding.
 - b. Buyouts – free phase 1 environmental assessments available, but not until February, which places more strain on the homeowners who are waiting for the completion. Christian will discuss it with Rebecca tomorrow.
 - c. Phone at transfer station works. But a new phone is needed.
 - i. **Peter moved to approve Rebecca buying a new phone, seconded by Christian, William in favor, Andrea in favor, Alfred opposed. So moved.**
 - d. Minutes for special town meeting are in the box to be signed.

5. Governor Mattocks Rd with Emily Finnegan
 - a. Emily has a map as a visual, but will explain. The river scientists went out to view the area again to gather specifics. Emily explained the different sections, and the cost impacts of materials. She noted that removing the culvert is the biggest part of the project. She also noted that defining what the board wants for the legal trail (in terms of access and type of trail) will impact how much work is done and the costs. She advised that adjoining landowners need to be consulted and the type of easement needs to be determined. She got some quotes from engineers, ranging from \$18,000-\$28,000 for the full design, which would be fully funded by clean water grant. She explained the timeline for the grant application, request for proposal, design, and work. Clean water funding can help with legal fees incurred during the grant project period. She would like to know what the town plans to do for the public process, so she knows how to plan for personnel hours for this type of engagement. To move forward with this project, she would just need a letter of intent, but nothing would be completely set in stone. Alfred had spoken with Mike Terrant, the lawyer, who is willing to help provide a step by step process on how to handle the matter. The public engagement portion of the process could overlap with the design process. Buyout properties could be included in the design.
6. Transfer Station
 - a. Regarding slab – Alfred discussed moving the compactor for the time being. Discussion about dimensions and location, and whether or not to move it temporarily. Confirmed the transfer station wouldn't be closed, but it will be adjusted temporarily. Amber explained Casella's plan for fees for the replacement.
 - b. Amber suggested a Starlink cell booster in order to provide internet to buy dump cards using Square (allowing for debit and card card purchases.) Alfred asked Rebecca about having a point of sale location. It would not be ideal due to fees and processing. Discussion about making an info card for updates. Amber advised about wasp nests at the transfer station, and is trying to take care of them.
7. PCH easement
 - a. Alfred reached out for legal language, and is waiting for a call. Alfred explained the easement is needed for driveway access up to the tennis court area before PCH subdivides and sells the science building portion to Rural Edge.
8. Peacham School acquisition
 - a. Alfred spoke with Mark Clough, chair of the Schoolboard, Matt Foster, Superintendent, and their attorney to discuss the town buying the school. VLCT is our current insurer, so we need to check with them about covering the property, although not the liability. The Selectboard can make the decision, but the Schoolboard needs to have a public forum, so regardless, there will be public input.
9. Town Hall Renovation

- a. The permit came through. Larry (contractor) wants to postpone construction of the front until the spring due to the weather. Site work will start this Monday, then he will want to work on the demolishing portion. There are materials that need to be moved/removed. Listers will need to move temporarily.
- b. Conditions of the permit including upgrades to gym exits and limit the occupancy to 99, or to add sprinklers. Rusty explained how to start the sprinkler installation, and that we'd have 5 years to complete it. However, he is concerned that the cost of the sprinkler system isn't justifiable. The occupancy is rarely close to that limit, so the board feels the former option is sufficient.
- c. Construction updates for public engagement and information. He will post on the website and For the Love of Peacham page on Facebook.
- d. One of the builders showed up with a gun strapped to their belt. Rusty informed Larry that would not be plausible. He emphasized that it is not a political nor a second amendment issue, but due to the fact that the public passing through include parents and young children who would not be comfortable with it. Larry will discuss it with the worker to find a solution. Peter advised that since the Post office is a federal building, it's not allowable anyway.
- e. Jeremy advised that there is underground power that goes out to the tennis courts near where the water proofing will be happening soon. Rusty asked him to help him locate it.

10. Public comment

11. Approve minutes

- a. Peter moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, September 3, 2025, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**

12. Review and approve bills

- a. Peter moved to approve and pay all bills as presented by the town treasurer, seconded Christian, all in favor, so moved.**

13. Review correspondence

- a. Peter noted that new signage is needed for the stump dump – no yard waste, which can be in its own defined area.
- b. Request for letter regarding apple tree removal from Slack St resident. The project has already been completed.
- c. Laurie Kozar emailed a recreational facilities grant opportunity. Andrea will look into it. Alfred suggested discussion it with Rusty.

14. Peter moved to adjourn at 7:53pm., 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.