

TOWN OF PEACHAM

Date of Meeting

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, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Tom Bryer, Jeff Lane, Dave Edwards, Bevin Campbell, Jock Gill

Via Zoom: Charlie Byron

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:39pm on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025
2. Additions to the agenda - none
3. Highway Department Update – none from Jerney
 - a. Alfred forwarded him an email about a pothole.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – with Rebecca Washington
 - a. FEMA is anxious for a decision about Governor Mattocks Rd, needing to know when the hearing will be.
 - b. Budget meeting rescheduled for Monday, Dec 8th at 4:00pm. She has emailed all the department heads.
5. Ice Rink with Jeff Lane
 - a. In years past, there has been an ice rink at the school. Not a viable option anymore. Current proposal to put on rink up by Fire Station. PTF will spend up to \$6000 to support this. Outstanding questions include whether the town and the insurance are ok with it, can they use the Fire Department as a water source, and could the highway department plow out some spots in the vicinity, so people would not park at the fire department. Water source is a Fire District question. It could be hauled if necessary. Fire Department agreed to do a load with the tanker. Alfred reached out to the VLCT loss control officer (PACIF), who said he would do a site visit and has some recommendations, which Alfred is still waiting for. Discussion about how having the other parking would benefit the Fire Department. In order to get it in before the ground freezes, it would have to be decided on soon. Rebecca noted that the recent drought could impact the Fire District's decision. Alfred asked about what happens to the water in the spring, suggesting it gets pumped to the far side of the village. Jeremy would be willing to plow the parking spaces. Peter commented that the snow mobile trail may need to go around.
 - i. **Peter moved to approve the ice rink on the conditions that we are able to adhere to whatever recommendations come from the**

insurance company and that we don't compromise the fire district supply, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.

6. Energy Committee update – Charlie Byron

- a. Charlie reported that the PEC is focused on saving energy and saving money. Looking for projects that have some real short term tangible benefits that also help slow climate change. In the area of helping people, they work on custom windows. Working on a proposal for expanded volunteers to support individual projects in energy efficiency, including connecting those who need the help with the volunteers. For a large project, they are looking into connecting with Washington Electric about another solar array project. Met on Tuesday with Senator Scott Beck and Representative Gregg Burt. Beck provided a path for moving forward with Washington Electric. They also plan to connect with neighboring Energy Committees to see if work can be done together. There are certain zoning and planning issues associated with solar arrays, but he explained that there are ways to allow the fields and arrays to coexist without impeding too much. They plan to work with the Planning Commission as well. Jock Gill pointed out that the Peacham Community Array is an alternative model compared to some other out of state models. Tom Bryer reported that they completed about 175 window dressings this year, which was slightly lower than average, but the Peacham portion was up. Financially, donations and payments of window dressings were almost even. Charlie noted that he heard that there are still MERP grants. Rebecca noted that the town of Peacham was denied MERP grants for the Town Hall heat pumps. She'll reach out.

7. Steel Plate bid

- a. The plate from the dump was removed. There was an interested party in purchasing it. Alfred proposed a price equivalent to scrap, about \$0.06/pound, so about \$112. Bids need to be in by next meeting. The buyer will be responsible for taking it away.
 - i. **Peter moved to put the steel plate out to bid, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**

8. Purchasing Policy - with Rebecca Washington

- a. Financial monitoring meeting for FEMA money. Checked policies and projects to confirm documentation. Found the purchasing policy is out of compliance for *federal money*, so need to add some language. She suggested updating the spending limits at the same time. Currently anything between \$1000 and \$15,000 needs two written quotes, and anything over \$15,000 needs to be put out to a sealed bid. She proposed increasing those limits to \$2,500 and \$25,000. Explanation of how they came to those numbers through inflation calculations and comparable policies. Discussion of highway department sole source vendor list to allow Jeremy to make the necessary purchases he needs. Adoption will need to wait, as Rebecca is waiting for final word about language.

9. Town Hall Renovation – Rusty Barber – not present.
10. Public comment
 - a. Jock Gill commented that he had a recent experience with a carbon monoxide detection in his home and had to call 911. He was told the dispatch center didn't dispatch to Peacham and that they couldn't find his house on the map. After some discussion, she located the correct dispatch. Jock wondered if there was a way to confirm the data proactively, as there seemed to be a conflict of information. Peter commented that there are some dispatcher issues in the state that are trying to be resolved. There are not enough operators.
 - b. Dave Edwards asked to be on the next meeting agenda to give an update on the Peacham Emergency Relief Fund.
11. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve regular meeting minutes from Wednesday, November 5, 2025, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. **Christian moved to approve special meeting minutes from Monday, November 10, 2025, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Review and approve bills
 - a. Rebecca proposed paying for the boiler updates out of the maintenance budget since it would have to happen, regardless of the renovation. She noted it to avoid confusion as the same company is doing some work for the renovation.
 - b. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented by the treasurer, seconded Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
13. Review correspondence
 - a. Alfred reported verbal interactions about road related issues, which he passed to Jeremy.
 - b. Alfred received questions from Eric Pomeroy about the science building and PCH, and whether the town was making any concessions with Rural Edge to facilitate that project, but Alfred explained the town was not involved.
 - c. Alfred attended a workshop at Northern Forest Center event to discuss utilizing and leveraging town forest. Probably more discussion to come, including with the rec committee.
14. Peter moves to adjourn at 7:33pm, 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.