

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, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Andrea Otto, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief, Rusty Barber, Jutta Scott

Via Zoom: Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, February 4, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda – none
3. Highway Department Update with Jeremy Withers
 - a. There is a salt shortage. We have a little bit, but he will save it for an ice storm to be safe. He could potentially get some trucked in, but it'd be more expensive. A notice will be posted to help make people aware.
 - b. Town pickup has not been fixed. Parts have been shipped. Jeremy is checking back regularly.
 - c. John Deere technician checked out and did some maintenance on the loader.
 - d. CAT technician did some work on the backhoe. Will be back to do some work on the grader.
 - e. Finished burning the stump dump.
 - f. Met with an engineer, Tim Shall, for the Mill Trace Bridge who is willing to do the wood plank deck. He sent an outline of the engineering work and would like a sign off to do the work. However, Jeremy explained that he has applied for an extension on that project from FEMA. If they don't approve the extension, FEMA will take back the money provided for it, and we would have to pay for it ourselves. We are asking for extensions on 3 projects, and he is getting push back about all of them. The board will give the go ahead to the engineer only when they have confirmation that FEMA has accepted the extension.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – None
5. Forestry Vehicle Contract – Jeff Berwick
 - a. Put a bid out for a new Forestry after receiving grant money for it. Found a vendor, Marco, who can build what we are looking for, within our price range. There is one on a lot that is available, which would reduce the build time by about a year. A large donation received in the fall could cover the town 5% portion. So, it won't cost the taxpayers anything. Discussion about specific

equipment. Jeff needs a motion to approve working with this vendor, then will get the contract sent along.

i. Peter moved to go with the Marco, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

6. Peacham Historical Society grant support letter – with Jutta Scott

a. Next July Peacham will celebrate its 250th anniversary of settlement. Peacham Historical Association has plans for anniversary activities, so they are applying for a grant from Vermont Humanities.

i. Peter moved to approve the support to the Peacham Historical Association, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

7. Town Hall Renovation update – Rusty Barber

a. Electrician has been working diligently. Subs have been doing work.

b. Next step is to get the drywall in. There is an issue with a door frame that will cause a delay.

c. HVAC people are making headway.

d. Leslie Witt has been doing the window restoration. Looks wonderful.

e. New conference room table looks great.

f. Putting wall in between the post office and town offices. Access control will program time it locks and unlocks. We can get it through the same folks who do our fire system.

i. Andrea moved to accept the security access proposal, not to exceed \$2800, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

g. Contractor needs a change request approved.

i. Peter moved to approve the change order request to Ruggco Inc, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

8. Public comment

9. Approve minutes

a. Christian moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, January 21, 2026, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved. Peter recused himself because he was absent for that meeting.

10. Review and approve bills

a. Peter moved to approve bills as presented by the town treasurer, seconded Andrea, all in favor, so moved.

11. Review correspondence

a. Request from Springfield, VT from a woman who would like permission to put a granite bench in the cemetery, despite not being a resident. Peter said the sexton would like to be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss possible areas. Andrea requested Cemetery Committee input, and asked about policy procedure or precedent. Peter explained it would have to be in an area owned by the town, not an individual lot. Andrea commented that it would be important to approve the dimensions and style.

- b. Andrea got paperwork for the grant for the work on the gym.
 - i. **Peter moved for Andrea Otto to be the for the grant application and the grant process for the work on the gym, Christian seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. John Reiss requested any information related to Cow Hill be sent to him. Alfred explained that there have not been any developments on that matter. Andrea commented that he also requested information regarding the special meeting. Alfred explained that the lawyer present had guided them through the process for that meeting.
 - d. Message from Mark Clough including a proposed leased for the school.
 - e. Emily Finnegan does not have anything to update until she hears whether the application will be funded.
 - f. Joel Letterman, a high school senior has developed AI software for minutes-taking for municipalities, and offered to meet with the board. Peter recommended checking State rules. Andrea and Alfred commented that this technology already exists in Zoom. All agree to keep the system as is for the moment.
 - g. Peter commented that he hoped everyone stays warm at winter carnival.
12. Peter moves to adjourn at 7:43pm, 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.