

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Andrea Otto, Selectboard, Christina Rumery, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Neil Monteith, Robert Starbuck, Katherine Siner, Eric Pomeroy, Michelle Pomeroy, Ross Page, Eric Page, Ed Hebebrand

Via Zoom:

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:31pm, on Wednesday, April 1st, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Proposed executive session for legal matter
 - i. **Christina moved to enter executive session, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - ii. Entered executive session at 08:20pm
 - iii. **William moved to exit executive session, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - iv. Exited executive session at 08:50pm. No action taken.
 - b. Ross Page – Snowmobile Club
 - i. Eric Page explained that the snowmobile club objected to not being invited that the last meeting regarding the usage of Rake Factory Rd, which did not provide the club the opportunity to present their side. The club felt the vote was not properly handled, although they don't dispute that the discussion. Alfred explained that he reached out VLCT, and there are various statutes that impact the decision. Eric felt that the way it was being plowed left it unsafe for snowmobiles, and it was necessary to groom, but that it was left passable for vehicles. He felt they were not receiving any cooperation. He requested the vote be rescinded. Alfred asked for clarification as to why for grooming the banks back into the road after it'd been plowed was needed. Eric and Ross explained the need for a base, and space for the sleds to safely move out of the way if they encounter another sled or a car. Alfred commented that creating the base for snowmobiles and having the road be passable for cars seemed mutually exclusive. Ross noted that the minutes stated that after his encounter with the resident, he had resumed grooming. He stated that he had to go back up the road, but he did not groom. Eric commented that

he didn't feel the landowner's version was accurate, stating that Ross had been confronted loudly and rudely. Alfred expressed his concern the grooming used for snowmobile trails wasn't working for a resident. Eric explained that the situation occurred after a large snow storm, and that it takes time to get things worked out. Ross suggested trying to come to an agreement for a year and see how it goes. Ross commented that recreation is important, and snowmobiles bring a lot of money to the state, and the snowmobile club benefits the town. Eric commented that VAST invested in the town's trails recently. Eric reiterated that it's well known that they run the club, but no one had reached out. Alfred noted that the item had been warned. Ross commented that he felt they should have received a letter. Ed Hebebrand, alternate director for VAST, commented that he hopes for a compromise. VAST spends thousands on reroutes every year, and the Baley Hazen clubs spends a lot of time and money on making the trails usable. He requests it doesn't go to waste. Alfred acknowledged and recognized the amount of work that goes into making the trails, but expressed that the decision was a result of lack of compromise. Eric commented they attempt to work with everyone. They asked for Jeremy Wither's opinion, so he responded that if it's plowed, regardless how wide they plow it, the club should be only using it as a conduit to connect trails. He feels the only compromise is that if the resident plows it, they shouldn't groom it. Alfred wrapped up the discussion by stating that his personal view is that a resident's right to access their property supersedes recreation, but that he would love to see middle ground. However, if the road can't be maintained to allow both resident access and snowmobile use, then he would err on the side of the resident. No action could be taken because it wasn't a warned item, but he asked for other Selectboard members input. Christina commented that she agrees, and that a compromise would be the best option. Christian commented that he's not familiar enough with the road, but that he would like to see a middle ground, but doesn't feel like he's being offered a solution to the issue. William commented that he felt they should not have groomed the plowed road this past winter, and that they cannot hinder residents from accessing their land. Eric commented that the resident could go around, but Alfred felt that reflected an unwillingness to see the resident's perspective. Discussion about continuing the discussion in search of a compromise at a later date.

3. Highway Department Update

- a. Trucks and equipment all OK. Doing some raking and adding gravel.
- b. FEMA home buyouts – pumped out fuel tank. Had some clean fuel in it they can use.

- c. Job specs are ready for shim and overlay project and has reached out to a couple contractors he regularly asks for bids from. Discussing about making some adjustments due to rising oil prices and potential high bids.
- 4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update
 - a. Mowing contractor wants to start cleanup early. Insurance on file, and contract will be signed on April 15th. Billing would be unchanged. No issues.
 - b. Look for TAN e-documents to sign.
 - c. Requested Special Town Meeting be hosted in the gym.
 - d. Town Meeting minutes to be signed.
 - e. Selectboard appointment forms for signing.
 - i. Alfred read the forms for CUD rep and Fire Warden.
 - ii. **Christian moved to sign the forms as presented, presented by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
- 5. Town Hall renovation update - Rusty Barber – not present.
- 6. 4th of July planning – Katherine Siner
 - a. Looking for approval for the 4th of July parade again in Peacham.
 - b. Looking for some help making decisions, and for more committee participation.
 - c. How to manage traffic control as the event has expanded with the Farmer’s Market. State Police advised not having parking along the parade route.
 - d. Town need a better route and parking area structurally. Discussion about some possibilities. Andrea and Christian volunteered to help.
 - e. Need a large committed parking crew.
 - f. Discussion about number of tractors, whether to consider preregistering, or how to handle an unknown number. Katherine noted she is not there to police what goes into the parade, but it is historically a tractor parade only.
 - g. Katherine asked to confirm about liability for volunteers.
 - h. **William moved to allow the tractor parade on July 4th, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
- 7. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan endorsement – Robert Starbuck
 - a. Requested the Selectboard formally adopt the litigation plan. Public review went well. State reached out to get it submitted, so they already have it for review per their request, they just need the Selectboard approval. It’s not legally binding, but it is a state requirement. Once it’s settled, they will determine how to move forward.
 - i. **William moved to adopt and sign the plan, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
- 8. Schedule Special Town Meeting for Peacham Elementary School purchase
 - a. Discussion about availability. Proposed May 29th, 2026 at 6:30pm.
 - i. **Christian moved to schedule the Special Town Meeting for the Peacham School purchase for 6:00pm on May 29th, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**

9. Public comment – none
10. Approve minutes
 - a. **William moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from Wednesday, March 18, 2026 and the special meeting minutes from March 18th, 2026, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Review and approve bills
 - a. **William moved to approve bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Review correspondence
 - a. Camp Rd resident called William saying road was impassable due to mud, asking if Jeremy could help. William explained it is not in the policy to do so, and confirmed with Jeremy, but allowed them to pass through his field.
 - b. Alfred advised that a town truck struck and killed a dog. The the operator was not at fault, which the residents acknowledged, but it was still a tragic accident, and he would like to extend condolences on behalf of the town.
 - c. Email from Steve Engle about permission to install village entry signs. Jeremy has met with him already, clarifying that Steve wants to confirm permission of the locations. Selectboard agreed to defer to Jeremy's suggestions.
 - d. Discussion about Peacham School transfer: Email from Mark Clough to Matt Foster. Included the language for the motion. An environmental assessment has been done.
 - e. Wheelock Selectboard chair requesting a reference for working with Emily Finnegan.
 - f. Dean Bornstein advised, in case he cannot make the April 15th meeting, that he formally supports throwing up Governor Mattocks and converting it to a legal trail.
 - g. Emails discussion about availability of a long USB-C cord for the AV package. Original quoted product no longer available. Only suitable replacement is more expensive, resulting in a change order.
13. Andrea moves to adjourn at 08:51pm, 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.