

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Selectboard Regular Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Christina Rumery, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Norm Patenaude, Pike Industries, Bruce Westcott, Ross Page

Via Zoom: Andrea Otto, Selectboard, Norm Patenaude, Allstate, Kevin DeFosse, Blaktop Inc, Janie Carle, Ellie Blachly, Bruce Westcott, Tim McKay

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Jeremy requested moving the paving bids to item 3.5. Alfred agreed.
3. Highway Department Update
 - a. Except for the 6-wheeler, which is getting some emission repair work done, all trucks are good, and have been dewinterized.
 - b. A lot of signs stolen or damaged recently. Will need to repurchase materials to replace the equipment.
 - c. Annual financial plan from VTrans needs signatures.
 - i. **Christian moved sign the annual financial plan presented by Logan Perrin of VTrans, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – none
5. Town Hall Renovation update – none
6. Mowing Contract
 - a. Bid already accepted. Board signed contract.
7. Tree Board update – Christian Snow
 - a. Christian spoke with Neil. Wed 22nd meeting scheduled. Will be warned. Discussed EAB approach for attack. Reached out to a company in CT for removal, but he needs to get more info. Notifying the land owners is a big step. Alfred's goal is to know what it will cost by October, so we're prepared for 2027 budget discussions, identify criteria for trees, and identify notification method.
8. Conservation Commission update – Andrea Otto
 - a. They have not met yet. Anna sent Andrea the board contact info, so she will reach out to try schedule a meeting.
9. Open paving bids – moved to item 3.5.
 - a. Jeremy clarified that we are hoping to pave about a mile on the Peacham-Danville Rd, and the specifications.

- i. Norm Patenaude – Pike Industries – Total of \$160,688.00 at \$100.43/ton
- ii. Norm Patenaude – All States Construction – Total of \$150,000 at \$93.75/ton
- iii. Kevin DeFosse – Blaktop Inc – Total of \$166,528 at \$104.08/ton
 - 1. Alfred asked for clarification about the All States quote, which Norm explained means the price per ton could fluctuate, however, he didn't expect it to, as they would look to start in May. The other two quotes have similar notes at the end of the bid. Pike's bid says that the prices are valid through 2026. Norm from Pike stated he would start as soon as possible. Christina commented that the relationship is important, and the stability of Pike's quote is important. Christian commented that the quality of the work is important, but the lower price is tempting if it's unlikely to change. Andrea commented that she supports Jeremy's opinion. Jeremy said he has always worked with Pike and feels confident in their work.

iv. Christian moved to accept the bid from Pike Industries for \$100.43/ton job total of \$160,688.00, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

- v. Jeremy thanked all the contractors for their time putting in the bids. Janie commented that East Peacham Road is cracking in a few places. Jeremy explained the reason, and the history of the pavement there. Discussion about base versus shim and overlay, and our need for base work.

10. Public comment

- a. Bruce Westcott – Regarding special town meeting, concern that the move to sell the school to the town was based on fear from a legislative decision, which would cause us to lose the rights to the building. There has been no written communication about this decision so far. Bruce understands that may have been a concern, but he does not think there is any legislative bill that would cause that. He feels it's a lot for the town to take on the responsibility for ownership, upkeep, and redevelopment. He doesn't oppose Town ownership, but he has concerns about taking it on in the short term. He's calling for some public discussion of pros and cons before acting. He provided a variety of questions and concerns about the building if it were to be vacant or repurposed. He doesn't object to the meeting or the vote, but asks for some informed individuals to provide some informative discussion to address questions before the vote, as well as provide some written material ahead of the vote. He encouraged the board to speak with Scott Beck. He feels we have more time to discuss it than originally thought, and we should know what we are getting into.

11. Approve minutes

- a. **Christian moved to approve minutes for the regular meeting from Wednesday, April 1, 2026, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
- 12. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Christian moved to approve bills as presented by the town treasurer, seconded Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
- 13. Review correspondence
 - a. Morgan Gold letter in support of reclassification of Governor Mattocks Rd.
 - b. Lydia Cochrane, Peacham School Principal – 5th/6th grade class are planning to walk 5 miles for a project. Rescheduled.
 - c. Alfred sent an email to Karen Lewis of the Cemetery Committee and Joe Mangon, Cemetery Sexton, asking if the Rec committee could store the ice rink components in the shed near the green. Neither opposed. If the cemetery committee needs the space at a later date, they can revisit. There is a small tractor in the shed that is not needed. Discussion of selling.
 - d. VLCT and VT Rural Schools emails
- 14. Executive session for personnel
 - a. **Christina moved to enter executive session for personnel at 7:41pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. **Christian moved to exit executive session at 7:58pm, seconded by Christina all in favor, so moved.** No action taken.
- 15. Christian moves to adjourn at 7:59pm, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.

Documents provided to the Selectboard and discussed at this meeting are available by request to the Town Office.