

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Selectboard Public Hearing for Reclassification of Governor Mattocks Road
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, Morgan Gold

Via Zoom: Andrea Otto, Selectboard, Emily Finnegan

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:03pm, on Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
2. Public Hearing:
 - a. Site visit at was at 4:00pm.
 - b. Brief history: The road was washed out July 10th, 2024. The second such event in approximately 15 years. Town explored rebuilding the road. FEMA estimated \$1.95 million to rebuild to condition before storm. FEMA would cover 75%, the State 17%, leaving the Town responsible for 8%. Numerous site visits with Rivers and Streams engineers. More than just restoration of the road would be needed to make the road more resilient. which would not be covered by FEMA. One formal quotes for was \$10,000 just for the remediation design. The town would be liable for an estimated \$300,000-\$500,000. Alfred's position, with support of the board, is that it's not worth the investment because there are no properties accessed on the road. It would not land lock anyone. The road is a vulnerable structure. It would be more prudent to pursue projects under the scope of clean water to mitigate future risks to the village of South Peacham by giving the river room to move and slow down in new flood zones. The road has already been restored to the houses that are at the road. The current terminus is 850 feet from the center line of the Peacham-Groton Road.
 - c. Alfred read a letter of support from resident Dean Bornstein from 03/24/26. Dean is in favor of throwing up the road and eventually converting that portion into a trail.
 - d. Morgan Gold, resident with abutting property, stated its very limited use. Given the budget and financial pressures in town, it makes sense to remove the cost of maintaining the road, plus mitigate the risk. Alfred noted that the money we would spend would be spent again when it inevitably happens again. Christian agreed.
 - e. Jeremy had no comment, just that he believes the Selectboard is looking out for the best interest of the town. He asked if any other land owners with abutting

property had responded. Alfred said they did not, we just have receipts of the certified letters that notification had gone out.

i. **Christian moved to reclassify the Governor Mattocks Road starting 850 ft from the center line of the Groton-Peacham Road to the intersection with County Rd from a class 3 highway to a public trail, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**

ii. Discussion and clarification of next steps. Alfred emphasized that he felt it was for the public good to reclassify the road for safety reasons.

3. Adjourn

a. **Christian moved to adjourn at 6:18pm, 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.