TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Selectboard Regular 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, Ross Page, Eric Page, Ed Hebebrand, Robert Ruffner

Via Zoom: Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:31pm, on Wednesday, May 6th, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda
    a. 8.5 – Cemetery update – email report from Joe Mangon, Cemetery Sexton
        i. Joe has identified $10,000 worth of stone repairs necessary. The stones are in critical condition and in need of immediate attention. He will flag the specific stones for cemetery committee to walk the work upon completion. He will come up with a 5-year plan for on-going maintenance. He reached out to Snapping Turtle about proceed with the quote with tree removal. Files are getting updated and straightened out. There has been about 15 lots that have been double sold, but he has a plan to fix the situation. He has extended the map for now, to prevent any further double sales until maps, card files, and deeds get reconciled. Per Rebecca Washington, the stone maintenance needs two written quotes per purchasing policy. There is $4000 in the budget for stones. She suggested selling the small tractor to help recover some of the cost. Joe offered to make a 3-year plan. Discussion about process to put the tractor out to bid to sell.
    b. 12.5 – Executive Session for Personnel
        i. **William moved to enter executive session, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved**. Entered at 7:46pm.
        ii. **William moved to exit executive session, seconded by Christian all in favor, so moved**. Exited executive session at 7:55pm.
        iii. No action taken.
3. Highway Department Update from Jeremy Withers
    a. Trucks and equipment all good.
    b. Crew has switched over to summer hours – 4 10-hour days
    c. Reminded board to look over updated Town road and bridge standards from VTrans. He needs to know if any changes need to be made.
    d. Groton Rd culvert replacement scheduled for 05/19. Road will be closed part of the day. William asked about the need for all the culverts in that area. Jeremy agreed they could review it.

e. Mill Trace Bridge plans are ready. Jeremy has yet to see them due to email issue, but should see them soon, and can order materials.

f. NEK Broadband requested installing underground cables on Slack St and Macks Mountain Rd. Jeremy gave specifications. Discussion about ensuring it's done to specifications and not on the town expense. Jeremy is not sure yet if the roads would be closed.

   i. **Christian moved to permit NEK Broadband to do the excavation under the condition that anything less than 5ft deep is encased in concrete and verified before back fill, seconded by William all in favor, so moved**.

Discussion about asphalt spot in center of Peacham.

4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
   a. Issue with the town email addresses not working has been resolved. But still working on an issue where website posts aren't being emailed to subscribers during the migration to the new hosting site. Everything is still being posted to the website in accordance with Open Meeting Law.
   b. Upcoming election training. Relevant to Selectboard members as the are part of the Board of Civil Authority.
   c. Town borrowed $65,000 from the Tax Anticipation Note for the meeting's AP. That brings the total TAN borrowing for this year to $140,000 of the available $500,000. Alfred will ask her about cash flow projection.
5. Town Hall Renovation update – Rusty Barber – not present
   a. Alfred read an email from Larry Ruggles: flooring contractor scheduled for May 6th. Upcoming activity includes door and light fixture installation. Once the flooring and electrical are done, the ceiling will be completed, followed by the interior painting. Then they will begin working out front. Requested meeting the week of May 11th.
6. Snowmobile trail discussion – Ross Page
   a. Ross reminded the board of the previous discussion where the board would consider allowing the trail under certain conditions. Alfred read email from Nathan Colpitts, who stated he'd met with Ross about the use of Rake Factory Road. Nathan stated that they'd agreed on a way to bypass the road with the groomer, but would allow snowmobiles to continue to use the road, as long as it did not interfere with plowing. If the trail maintenance impeded the vehicular traffic, he will bring it back to the Selectboard. Ross was concerned about having to backtrack but felt it could work. Alfred expressed his concern that due to housing availability causing more small camps to be used full time, the issue may appear frequently the state. Ross explained how class 4 roads are necessary trail connectors. He will make it work on his end, and if there are issues, to call him and he'll address it. William is satisfied if they have been able to work it out. Christian understands snowmobiling is an important asset to the community, but the landowners need to be considered first. Christina commented that further issue does not necessarily need to be brought to the Selectboard. Alfred clarified

that the road policy needs to be revised, including snowmobile usage, so he will invite Ross to that discussion when it happens.

i. William moved to re-allow snowmobile use on Rake Factory Road, as long as the conditions are met, seconded by Christina.
ii. **Alfred amended the motion to re-allow snowmobile usage maintained in a manner that doesn't prohibit vehicular traffic. So moved by William, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved**. Ed Hebebrand, the director of VAST thanked everyone for finding a compromise.

7. Paving Bids discussion- All States Construction – not present.
    a. Alfred explained that at they had expressed concern because they were the lowest bidder, but he felt they had been clear that their decision to go with Pike Industries was based on the existing relationship and the fixed price in the volatile current market.
8. Conservation Commission appointment
    a. Discussion about appointment. Board decided to hold off due to positions being full and being unsure what level of participation the potential appointee wants. Discussion about town forest and possible usage. Andrea asked for the Forestry Plan. William asked if the access dispute had been resolved. Alfred said there is a report from the surveyor, but said he had to track it down.
9. Public comment – none
10. Approve minutes
    a. **Christian moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, April 15, 2026, seconded by Andrea, William abstained, so moved.**
    b. **Christian moved to approve the minutes of the site visit on April 15th, 2026, seconded by Andrea, William and Christina abstained, so moved.**
    c. **Andrea moved to accept the minutes for the public hearing about Governor Mattacks on April 15th, seconded by Christina, William abstained, so moved.**
11. Review and approve bills
    a. **Christian moved to approve all bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Review correspondence
    a. Email from Town Forester
    b. Email about election training
    c. Email from Nathan Colpitts
    d. Email from Larry Ruggles
    e. Email from Jeff Lanpher asking about taking a stance on Act 181. Alfred explained the Selectboard chose to refrain from taking that action until the town has had the opportunity to formally vote.
13. Christian move d to adjourn at 7:55pm, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.

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