

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, May 20, 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, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Johanna Branson

Via Zoom: Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:31pm, on Wednesday, May 20th, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. 4th July Parade committee update – Christian Snow
 - i. 14 volunteers are needed to help with parade. Volunteers will get a free t-shirt. He will contact the sheriff's department. Discussion about better traffic control. Discussion about use of walkie talkies. Parking still needs to be finalized. Discussion about parking locations and the possibility of a shuttle bus. Discussion about traffic movement and safety.
 - b. Executive Session for personnel
 - i. **William moved to enter executive session, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.** Entered executive session to discuss personnel at 7:45pm.
 - ii. **William moved to exit executive session, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.** Exited executive session at 7:52pm. Selectboard chair will send an email to the mowing contractor threatening a breach of contract if the cemetery isn't mowed by Friday night.
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers
 - a. Culvert replacement on Peacham-Groton Rd complete and done well. Discovered there is not a great road base. He suspects some issues in the future.
 - b. Garage door at garage broke. Both doors have been fixed, but pushed garage maintenance budget over budget.
 - c. Pike requested starting the shim on Friday. Board agreed.
4. Town Roads and Bridge Standards document
 - a. It's all standard procedure and best practice, which Jeremy follows as long as the budget allows. He gave example of ditching procedure.
 - i. **William moved to adopt the Town Road and Bridge Standards, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
5. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – Rebecca Washington – None

6. Cemetery Deed
 - a. **Andrea moved to approve the cemetery deed to convey burial rights for Patricia Babcock Soden, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
7. Cemetery tractor sale
 - a. Board determined it was unnecessary to maintain the asset. Board agreed they'd get the most for it by auction. Town clerk confirmed this was acceptable. Alfred will reach out to auction house.
 - i. **Christian moved to sell the cemetery tractor, a Kabota BX 1860 at the Thomas Hirschak auction company, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Town Hall update – Rusty Barber – None
9. Asbestos inspection discussion
 - a. Email post-inspection of homes on Gov Mattocks and it was determined that there is asbestos in both homes. Question about whether a counter top can be removed ahead of destruction. Alfred expressed concern that now that the houses are property of the town, there would have to be an open process, which would be a headache to administer and open up liability concerns, as the houses are in poor condition. Andrea commented it would be a shame to unnecessarily go to waste, especially if it were antique. William feels it would open up a can of worms to allow it. Christian clarified that once the home transfer were finalized, it was made clear to the previous owners that nothing should be removed. Alfred confirmed the house wouldn't likely have had antiques in it.
 - i. **William moved they do not allow any parts or pieces of the homes to be removed other than by the demolition company, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
10. 250th Anniversary event update
 - a. Johanna Branson shared that the 250th anniversary got a grant to support the event. She explained the common events relating to the 4th of July, and how some events may be expanded. There will be a Peacham community block party and fireworks on July 25th. Eric Pomeroy was able to get a grant for the block party, which she hopes will help with the pot luck. Katherine Siner is working on the event. There will be a touch-the-truck activity at the fire station. Johanna asked for feedback and advice from the board. William noted that parking and traffic control has been an issue. Andrea asked about inclement weather plan. It would be the next day, or to be announced. Terry Miller is building a website for the 250th anniversary events that will be updated regularly. There will be programming as part of the library summer series, among other events. There will be another event in October about the Worcester family. She asked about putting up banners in town. They'd be on GMP poles, so they are looking for permission. She will ask for more information from GMP. If they approve, she does not need approval from the board.

11. Energy Committee appointment
 - a. **Christian moved to appoint Dick Browne to a 2-year term to the Energy Committee ending in 2028, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Public comment – none
13. Approve minutes
 - a. **William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, May 6, 2026, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
14. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Christian moved to approve bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
15. Review correspondence
 - a. Email request to use the Town Forest for a wedding on Sept 13th for about 25 people. Alfred has reached out to VLCT. Will noted it was essential there was no mess left behind. Andrea suggested presenting something in writing.
 - i. **William moved to approve the use of the Town Forest space for this wedding, but any forthcoming conditions from VLCT or PACIF would need to be met, and the site should be used on a “leave no trace” basis, and if the town needs to clean up after the fact, then it will be done at a rate of \$150 per hour for 2 hours minimum, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Email- Change in reporting requirements for the transfer station- instead of reporting quarterly, we will be required to report annually.
 - c. Email from Laurie Kozar – Links about removing Chervil
 - d. Email from Robert Starbuck about historical maps and map usage for the 250h event. Board OK with it.
 - e. Cemetery maintenance – a few messages
 - f. NEKWMD prices are going up.
16. Christian moves to adjourn at 7:52pm, 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.