

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
Wednesday, July 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, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief, Robert Starbuck, Mark Simakaski, Barbara Schoolcraft, Nancy Fowler,

Via Zoom: Amber Lowell, Connie Terceira, Janie Carle

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers email
  - a. Robco Steel Fabricators is working the mill trace bridge. Then we will order and install wood deck. Hopefully open by end of summer.
  - b. One tandem axle truck (10-wheeler) being serviced.
  - c. Ditching and replacing culverts moving along.
  - d. Working on grading. Roads are mostly holding up, but there are some washouts due to recent rain.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – Rebecca Washington
  - a. Approved liquor license for Rake Factory Arts Festival. Presented to board.
  - b. Budget status update:
    - i. Per discussion in April, she has completed the new numbering system for restricted funds to avoid those funds flowing through general funds, as approved by auditors. It makes the budget a lot cleaner and easy to understand. She made the change, so she presented a list of the numbering system. She has transferred the actuals that have been received and spent. She asked if the board wanted to move the budgeted amount into the funds. Auditors approve. She gave examples of the restricted funds. Some funds are funded by donation, some funded by taxes, some funded by the State. She emphasized that it won't affect the amount raised in taxes. The Working Capital Fund has been renamed the Unrestricted Fund for clarity.
    - ii. We have borrowed \$325,000 from TAN. Expected because the Capital Building Fund has been used, which we used in the past for cash flow. Our limit is \$500,000.

- iii. We got our Education Tax Rate: Homestead rate is 2.1716 and non-homestead rate is 2.1102. On the education side only, the homestead rate increasing 12.27% and non-homestead rate is increasing 18.62%. We are still waiting for the municipal rate. While it's expected to go down, the overall tax rate will go up. Will discuss more at next meeting. Grand List should be finalized soon. Then Selectboard will be able to set the rate, so she can send tax bills and get some income flowing in.
- 5. Cemetery Deed
  - a. Cemetery deed for Charles Byron and Morris McCain.
  - b. Christian moved to approve the deed, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
- 6. Fire Warden appointment discussion – Jeff Berwick
  - a. Effective 7/1/26, State VT Act 162 makes every Fire Chief the Fire Warden, taking it out of the Selectboard hands. However, Jeff asked for board to affirm that he has appointed two Deputy Fire Wardens: Robert Starbuck and Mark Simakaski. Website will be updated with contact information. Jeff reviewed some of the changes, which will be posted. The Selectboard affirmed and acknowledged they are in favor of the two appointed deputies and changes.
- 7. Cemetery Discussion – Will Kempton
  - a. RE Groton Cemetery not being mowed – Will spoke with Groton officials, and according to them, it's our year to mow, as they'd paid someone last year. This means there has been some kind of miscommunication, because we paid for it last year as well. Requested Will to go to their Cemetery Board meeting next meeting. Board agrees that this year we'll have to make do, maybe with some volunteer work, but that they will sort it out for the future.
  - b. Need someone who is in communication between with Cemetery Committee, and the Cemetery Sexton. Will will take this roll. Regarding stone cleaning, as the current Sexton has cleaned them before, but they are not part of his Sexton duties. Will wants to avoid conflict of interest. Purchasing policy requires two quotes.
  - c. Alfred got a call from Wendy Morgan. They have been working on updating policies and regulations. They will try to send a copy ahead of the next meeting. Until the records of the plots have been reconciled, Sexton can't sell anything in section C, so there is another row that is being sold instead. There is also discussion about a vegetation plan. The policy does actually allow for new trees, so they are making a plan.
- 8. Cemetery Tractor – Dave Stauffer – not present
- 9. Town Hall Renovation – Rusty Barber – not present
  - a. Groton Timberworks is building the entrance, but apparently the business has folded. Rebecca reported the new proposal about providing the timber with our contractor completing the installation.

- b. Keying issue is being worked on.
- 10. Proposed Library 5K – Nancy Fowler and Barb Schoolcraft
  - a. Scheduled for Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026
  - b. Presented the proposed route
  - c. Asked if Mack Mountain should be detoured briefly during race.
  - d. Fire Station for lights, Town Clerk and Church for parking.
  - e. Rebecca reached out to VLCT, she's waiting for one more response. Suggested written agreement in place. Rebecca will work on model agreement.
  - f. Board supportive provided they meet the requirements town insurance required, and OK with the Town spaces being used.
  - g. "Book it" is the name of the event.
- 11. Transfer Station holiday hours
  - a. Christian proposed opening on Sunday instead of Saturday. Discussion about which day, with the focus on the recycling, and staff availability. Decided noon to 4:00pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup>. The information will get posted to spread the word.
- 12. Public comment
  - a. None
- 13. Approve minutes
  - a. **William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, June 17, 2026, seconded by Christian, 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.**
  - b. Rebecca asked about authorization for purchases of transfer station due to a recent purchase by an assistant. Board agreed it should be Amber only.
  - c. Andrea asked Rebecca about grant projects opportunities.
- 15. Review correspondence
  - a. FEMA wants to know about the reclassification of Governor Mattocks. Alfred read email from Mike Terrant, lawyer about the final decision. There was confusion about deadline for decision, but he thinks it can be resolved.
  - b. Karina Morales email to Alfred about update on Governor Mattocks.
  - c. Animal Control Officer reached out about removing a dog from an unoccupied home. He was concerned that if he removed the dog and took to a shelter, he'd be charged for theft. Alfred reached out to VLCT. Another party got involved to resolve.
  - d. Email from Laurie Kozar from 6/22/23 regarding speeding in village, asking if there are any options. Alfred mentioned temporary speed bumps. Christian asked about changing speed zone. Andrea asked about a school zone. Will discuss at the next meeting.
  - e. Austin Winder following up about historical documentary possibility.

- f. Sexton follow up email about the mowing during the Memorial Day. His understanding of the exchange was that his crew had been polite. Board will work on a solution to the complaint.
- 16. Christian moves to adjourn at 7:47pm, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.

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