

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library 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, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Rusty Barber, Wendy Morgan, Kathy Buck, Dave Stauffer, Joe Mangan, Ron Craig, Joe Notini, Dave Edwards

Via Zoom: Janie Carle, David Jacobs, Laurie Kozar

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:31pm, on Wednesday, July 15th, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda – none
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers
 - a. Routine summer maintenance – backhoe and grader work
 - b. Trucks maintenance – One 10-wheeler had repairs done under warranty, other back next week.
 - c. FEMA update – Still having meetings with FEMA. They need paperwork on old projects. Still some money owed to us. Outstanding work may still occur, but working out if we are in compliance.
 - d. Mill Trace Bridge – steel work started
 - e. Grants-In- Aid funded work upcoming for Ewells Mill to upsize culverts and stone-lined ditching. Road will be closed temporarily.
 - f. Helped Steve Engles place signs at each end of the town.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – Rebecca Washington – none
5. Cemetery Deeds
 - a. **William moved to re-approve the amended version of deed to Charles Byron and Morris McCain, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. **William moved to convey the deed of burial rights to Thomas and Kathleen Buck, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
6. Cemetery Committee – Wendy Morgan
 - a. Wendy reviewed the documents
 - i. Application: Who can buy burial rights – traditionally restrictive. Goal to open up and be more consistent with other towns. 3 groupings: resident, non-resident property owner, and non-resident. Andrea asked about space, to which Wendy confirmed there is still plenty of space. Ron Craig commented that it seemed the same. Wendy explained they are trying to avoid non-residents asking residents to purchase a lot for them. Ron

asked about who can be buried in a purchased lot, whether it specifically has to be a family member or could be a friend. Kathy clarified that the document being discussed is the application to purchase a lot, not who can be buried in one. Joe Mangan, sexton, clarified that the who is determined by the deed, as the deed refers to heirs. He explained there are situations with gray areas. Dave Stauffer noted that the regulations are a legal town document, so the decision is up to the Selectboard. Wendy explained that the purchaser indicates on the application who they intend to be buried there, so it is up to the purchaser.

- ii. Burial rights cannot be sold or transferred to another, only inherited. The purchaser determines who can be buried there while they are alive, after, the inheritor. Ron asked the Selectboard to review the document before they vote on it, citing an example of someone he knows who would pay more because they live outside of Peacham. Wendy clarified that person's options, noting that anyone can be buried in the natural burial lot. Dave Stauffer explained the difference that natural burials are sequential. Dave Jacobs asked about the number of people permitted per lot, which Wendy explained and noted it is now listed in the application.
- iii. Wendy explained the natural burial set up and the options, noting the focus is on being environmentally friendly. Discussion on water cremation.
- iv. Application prices are higher to be consistent with other town and aligns with the goal of the cemetery supporting itself. The natural burial site would have posts with names (if wanted), but there would be no stones. Alfred asked about the mowing of the natural burial site. Wendy explained it will be mowed occasionally, but focus on pollinator flowers. Dave Stauffer encouraged the board to not sell the tractor to be able to mow the areas the contracted mowers don't reach. Discussion about its use, and Selectboard agreed to keep it.

1. Christian moved to retract the previous vote to sell the tractor, seconded by Will, all in favor, so moved.

- v. Christina asked about clarification about eligibility to vote as an indicator. Discussion about examples as to why one might not be eligible to vote, but still be a resident. Laurie Kozar asked if it would make sense if the indicator be that Peacham is their primary residence. Ron concerned about folks who have generational ties to Peacham who then fall into the higher priced tier. Laurie suggested an income-sensitivity clause, but Wendy expressed concern for the issues that could arise with this. Joe Notini asked about the quantity of requests, and suggested a generational clause. Wendy noted that if there are still family-generational ties to Vermont, those specific examples are generally sorted out within

the family. Joe noted that Calais had a similar issue come up, so they ended up drawing a hard line because it got so complicated.

- vi. Wendy finalized what the Cemetery Committee request would be. Will indicated that he would abstain, feeling he has not had enough time to review it.
- vii. **Andrea moved to accept a motion to approve the revised the application for purchase of a lot in the cemetery, amending paragraph 2 section A, the definition of resident of Peacham, a person who's primary residence in Peacham, may purchase a two-grave lot for \$1000, seconded by Christina, Christian and Alfred in favor, Will abstained, so moved.**
- viii. Ron asked for clarification on the record about who can be buried in a lot, asking if the purchaser of a lot determines who can be buried in the lot. Joe Mangan clarified again that it can be anyone, as long as it's specified and recorded on the deed.
- ix. **Andrea moved to adopt the revised regulations and policies, that include the changes included just adopted in the application of a purchase of a lot in Peacham Cemetery, seconded by Christina, Alfred and Christian in favor, Will abstained, so moved.**

7. Town Hall Renovation – Rusty Barber

- a. As temporary zoning administrator – approved application for the development of the Science building and apartments.
- b. Construction process on Town Hall:
 - i. Interior construction – Rusty reviewed the current work being done, and what's causing delays.
 - ii. Exterior construction – concrete work delayed because contractor is not yet available. He described the timber work decision with Groton Timberworks, who is going out of business on July 22nd. Negotiated for them to do the prep work, then contractor will erect it. Groton Timberworks revised their proposal, which needs approval, so they can complete the work before the 22nd.

1. William moved to sign the contract with Groton Timberworks, Christian seconded, all in favor, so moved.

- iii. Interior use schedule – goal end of Aug or early Sept. Almost everything ready to set up, but still missing a main computer component.
- iv. Gym wiring updated due to old wires found. The scoreboard needs the same fix. Rusty asked how to resolve. Agreement to disconnect. If ever used again, it would need to be rewired.
- v. Financial update – Rusty reviewed the current budget and anticipated changes.

8. Village speeding discussion

- a. Laurie Kozar provided some materials and expressed her serious concern about the speeding through the village. Joe Notini commented that the biggest challenge is the thru traffic and expressed his concern as well. Alfred suggested "sticky uppy thingies." Jeremy shared some feedback to the idea. Discussion about speed humps or speed bumps. Jeremy encouraged them to also look into sheriff law enforcement. Discussion of changing the speed limit to 25mph. Joe Notini noted there is probably no singular solution, to which Laurie agreed. Alfred will solicit a new quote from the sheriff's office. Discussion about signage and ordinances. Laurie commented about natural design and how there may be grants available and encouraged working with tree board to help with visual cues. All in agreement that something needs to be done, and board will revisit next meeting. Dave Jacobs commented that it's a chronic issue, and that the sheriff's department should be instructed to give out tickets, noting a past example in Danville.
9. Public comment
 - a. Dave Jacobs asked to discuss Tree Board and ash trees at next meeting. Alfred reviewed his previous goals regarding this issue.
10. Approve minutes
 - a. **William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, July 1, 2026, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Christian moved to approve bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded William, all in favor, so moved.**
12. Review correspondence
 - a. William met with Joe Mangan, the sexton, at the Cemetery regarding a quote from Snapping Turtle Tree Service to remove maple and pine trees that was just under \$100,000. He also asked about the stone maintenance. Joe suggested straightening of stones. He suggested removing one tree per year. Board will revisit
 - b. Update from Gov Mattocks demolition schedule – next Tuesday to mobilize with demolition scheduled to start next Wednesday.
 - c. The information the Laurie Kozar had provided regarding the speeding.
 - d. Message from Katherine Siner for use of tent on 7/25/26 on green.
 - e. John Reiss sent Cow Hill Road supporting documentation. Board has not had a chance to review carefully yet.
13. Christian moves to adjourn at 8:38pm, 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.