TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Christina Rumery, Selectboard, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Steve Engle, Donal Gordon, David Jacobs, Neil Monteith, Joe Notini

Via Zoom: Robert Bartell, Laurie Kozar, Janie Carle, Ron Craig, Karen Gordon

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:31pm, on Wednesday, August 5th, 2026
2. Additions to the agenda – none
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers
    a. Trucks and equipment are all well.
    b. Regarding FEMA – As we have chosen not to rebuild Gov Mattocks, FEMA is suggesting we still spend the money on other projects or equipment. There is $1.9 million available. However, once over 1 million, there would be an expansive audit. We would still have to match 7.5%. Alfred suggested a new grader. The Capital Equipment fund could cover our portion. The project deadline is Dec 31st, but if we have an invoice ready, FEMA will pay it if completed in 2027. Equipment purchasing is the simplest and easiest choice. There is a list of approved projects, which Rebecca read through. Jeremy noted that replacing two culverts in Peacham Pond is a potential project, but there are time limitations that will likely make it ineligible. Jeremy also suggested a section of road as well because we already have a re-treatment fund available. Alfred asked about a roadside mower. Christina asked about material. Discussion about project ideas with suggestions from Steven Engle and Laurie Kozar. Board will look into more and discuss again next meeting.
    c. Christian checked in about the demolition on Gov Mattocks. They have not finished, but are close.
    d. Alfred asked about the Mill Trace Bridge progress.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – Rebecca Washington
    a. One-day liquor license – approved for The Distillery for Aug 8th's Farmer's Market.
    b. Jean Berwick tent – part of the tent fund was to embroider the tent in her memory. Rebecca found a person who can embroider it, board agrees.
    c. Regarding the speeding discussion. She can help find funding, but it will need to be footnoted in the town report.
5. 2026 Municipal Tax Rate
    a. Rebecca provided the breakdown for the town tax rate and reviewed each of the sections of the report: the grand list value at $1,401,669.98, the Education Tax rate, and

the Town general taxes to be raised at $1,454,998.43 and appropriations at $57,579.00, as set at Town Meeting. She noted a section regarding exempt taxes for disabled veterans, which she has corrected the format for. It's called a Local Agreement tax rate which is 0.0028. The municipal tax rate came in to be 1.0791, which is 4.84% lower than last year. She asked the board to approve the tax rate and to decide whether to charge a late filed homestead penalty. We have traditionally charged 4%. She suggested including it, based on the work that goes into those cases.

   i. **William moved to approve the town tax rate of 1.0791, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
   ii. **Christian moved to accept the local agreement tax rate of 0.0028%, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
   iii. **Christina moved to approve the late filed homestead penalty of 4%, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**

6. Adopt Updated Road Policy
   a. Alfred presented the updated road policy, which he noted is a guide for the town, versus an ordinance, which is a guide for the public. However, there are certain sections that would affect the public as well. Alfred identified and clarified each section of the policy that was affected by changes. Steve Engle asked for clarification about the ROW distanced measured from the center of the road. Discussion about Bayley-Hazen Road as an exception, due to being identified as a military road and the implications of it. Noted there is no survey of Bayley-Hazen.
      i. **William moved to approve the new updated Road Policy, Christian seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
7. Town Hall Renovation – Rusty Barber – not present
8. Cemetery discussion
   a. Two quotes for tree work, Snapping Turtle quoted is $9,000 per pine, $650-$1200 per Maple from Snapping Turtle, and Catamount Tree Service, one pine $4500, then 2 maples at $2500 each. There is $10,000 in the budget. The Sexton is familiar with both, and is OK with either quote. Dave Jacob asked about why they are coming down and if the trees could return to the Tree Board's jurisdiction. Will explained it was due to decline in the trees and was based on the Cemetery Committee recommendation. Dave noted that while the Tree Board was under control, they systematically trimmed the trees to help keep the cemetery clean of litter, and took down the necessary ones. Christian noted the damage they cause to headstones. Dave noted that proper maintenance could avoid some of the problems. Donal Gordon encouraged a second opinion. Neil noted one weak that does need to come down. Discussion about preference to keep trees. Alfred expressed his desire for the town articulate a goal and jurisdiction for the trees in the cemetery to determine a management course of action. Ron Craig gave some context to recent pine removals. Neil suggested involving the Tree Warden. Alfred would like to try to meet with the Tree Warden, the Tree Board, the Cemetery Committee, and the Selectboard to discuss.
9. Tree Board update

a. Neil called a meeting and only Jason came, so they spoke briefly. Neil suggested adding Dave Jacobs to the Tree Board. Alfred reiterated that he wanted a price tag on White Ash removal before next year's budget, by making criteria for identifying the removal of trees, and price to remove them. With the potential FEMA funds supporting our equipment purchase, there may be available funds to go towards the tree removal. Laurie noted that the inventory has some of the information regarding trees in ROW and ownership of wood. Discussion of how to handle and move forward with the project.

10. Village speeding discussion
    a. Alfred got an email from the sheriff's department, which he read, with the proposed contract – noting $60.00/hour for regular hours or $65.00 for off hours. Steve Engle commented that he sees the problem regularly, and noted it is all types of drivers. He noted few signs indicating the school. Alfred confirmed that proceeds from violations are no longer paid back to the town. Joe Notini noted he would like to see in addition more signage, lower the speed limit, a potential 4 way stop that are more long lasting solutions. Donal noted that he also sees the excessive speed at his end of the village, and encouraged something be done because an accident is inevitable as things are now. Alfred clarified that the sheriff could be a temporary solution while the town works on some longer term solutions.
        i. **William moved to request Rebecca find $10,000 to hire the sheriff until the end of the year for a couple days of week, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Public comment
12. Approve minutes
    a. **William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, July 15, 2026, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
13. Review and approve bills
    a. **Christian moved to approve bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded William, all in favor, so moved.**
14. Review correspondence
    a. Email from Rusty regarding Selectboard moving into the new meeting space at the Town Hall.
    b. Hunter Eastman regarding nuisance beaver trapping services.
15. William moves to adjourn at 8:51pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.

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