TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Town Offices and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Christina Rumery, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk, Doug Morton, Jeff Lane, Jacob Dedam

Via Zoom: Janie Carle, David Jacobs, Neil Monteith

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, October 21st 2026
2. Additions to the agenda
    a. Request Selectboard support to approve a Municipal Planning Grant – Doug Morton
        i. Working with NVDA on the Municipal Plan. He's hopeful that he can help via the Planning Commission and NVDA, if they have capacity. The request would be up to $30,000, with the idea that they would spend as little as possible. The town would be responsible for 25%. He provided the paperwork to sign, which needs to be turned in by Dec 2nd, 2026, giving the board time to review and approve at next meeting. He explained that there would unlikely be a huge rewrite of the plan, but there has to be an opportunity for community input.
    b. Request to appoint NVDA reps: primary and alternate
        i. Commitment would be for quarterly in-person meetings. They provide communication between the NVDA board and the Selectboard. People who are interested in local economic development and regional planning. Doug can ask Ross, another Planning Commission member, but asked if Selectboard had any other suggestions.
    c. Cemetery discussion – William Kempton
        i. Tree removal was held up due developing conversations, but there is at least one tree that needs immediate action. He'd like to meet with a member of the Tree Board and Cemetery Committee to figure it out. Alfred reiterated the lack of guiding principals and mission statement for the cemetery. A meeting will be scheduled with all groups.
3. Highway Department Update – Jeremy Withers
    a. Trucks and equipment OK. Working on getting trucks ready for snow.
    b. Last spring he applied for a grant to help with our guardrails. Agreement just came through. Good through July 2028, but plans to put out some bids next year. Another grant for road work signs hasn't been finalized, but he hopes it will by the end of the year.

    c. Roadside mower and grader are decided, but he asked about a small utility trailer he'd like to purchase as well. He got two prices, and presented the trailer he'd like to purchase. He noted that all of this equipment is still contingent on FEMA funding being approved. Discussion of use.
        i. **William moved to authorize Jeremy to purchase the 7×22 tilt deck trailer from Kingdom Equipment and Trailers pending the approval of our application with FEMA, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
4. Peacham Pond Plowing – reviewed the previous discussion of price and material.
    a. **William moved to approve 802 Lawn Care for plowing the Peacham Pond area this winter for $20,000, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
5. Traffic Study discussion
    a. Jeremy discussed it with Logan Perrin from VTrans and his thoughts. Rebecca gave a quick review of reports from the Sheriff. Most of his report was for violations other than speeding. Alfred will reach out with a request to the sheriff to focus on the village, which is the biggest concern. Doug Morton offered to do a speed study and will report back.
6. Cows in the road discussion
    a. William has received some complaints about the cows in the road in South Peacham. Alfred provided an example of past issue with a cow in the road to emphasize the concern. Will will talk to the farmer.
7. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
    a. Taxes are rolling in, almost 1.9 million collected, 2.4 million still due. *Taxes are due November 2nd*. Elections the day after, but many votes have come in already.
    b. There are two truckloads of trash from a group neighborly effort to clean up a vacant property, and there is request to be allowed to take it to the dump. Alfred isn't opposed, but acknowledges the possibility of setting a precedent, but other Selectboard members agree this particular situation is highly unusual. Christina suggested earmarking some goodwill funding for this type of scenario in the future. Board members agreed to allow it.
8. CALEX contract
    a. No rate increase. At $45 per capita, but there will be 3% back to back increases in 2028 and 2029.
        i. **William moved to accept and sign the contract with CALEX ambulance services, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Title VI training, quiz, and questionnaire
    a. New item for the board. Need to appoint a Title VI Coordinator to do the training and be responsible for the quiz and questionnaire. Discussion with

Doug Morton, who is more familiar with the process and he offered to provide assistance.

   i. **William moved to appoint Alfred as the Title VI Coordinator, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**

10. Ice rink shed discussion – Jeff Lane
    a. On behalf of the PTF, Jeff asked for permission to put the ice rink on the fire station green again, improved on it by adding a temporary warming shelter that would on a trailer and be removed when the rink is taken down. Jeff has gotten some donations to help offset the cost. Last year the rink was highly used.
       i. **William moved to approve the ice rink and shed and anything else that goes along with that for the winter up at the green, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved**
11. School Transfer discussion – no update
12. Old Cemetery fence removal
    a. Last meeting there was a request to remove the fence around the Old Cemetery on Old Cemetery Road. Unclear whether it has already been removed or not.
13. Tree board appointments
    a. Need members to help get things moving on the Ash removal and the Cemetery tree concerns. Jacob Dedam worked for the department of natural resources, has done tree work and GIS experience. Dave Jacobs expressed interest as well and has previous experience. Rosa Van Wie, a newer resident, expressed interest in getting involved. There are two current members who prefer to vacate their seats: Joe Layn and Ryan Chapell, so two of the appointees would replace them. Dave Jacobs noted that it's been determined we have about 4000 Ash trees in our right-of-way. Neil and Dave met with Joanne Garton, a community forester from Agency of Natural Resources urban and the Community Forestry program. They took a walk on Willow Brook Road and found some infected trees already. Dave Jacobs mentioned the need for discussion the wood use with the landowners, and has potential contacts for removal. Alfred emphasized his request for getting more data and making progress so the town can budget for the work. He hopes the savings from the potential FEMA funds for the highway equipment can offset the costs this project, so that overall town budget would not be significantly impacted. He also encouraged progress on the Cemetery as well. Discussion about meeting of boards and committees.

i. **William moved to replace Joe Layn with Jacob Dedam for his position the Tree Board term expiring in 2027, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
ii. **William moved to replace Ryan Chapell's position on the Tree Board with Rosa Van Wie for the term expiring in 2028, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
iii. **William moved to create a new position to the Tree Board with a term expiring in 2029 for Dave Jacobs, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**

14. Town Hall update – Rusty Barber – not present
15. Public comment – none
16. Approve minutes
    a. **William moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, September 30, 2026, seconded by Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
17. Review and approve bills
    a. **Christian moved to approve bills as presented by the Town Treasurer, seconded Christina, all in favor, so moved.**
18. Review correspondence
    a. Scope of Work change from FEMA for equipment purchases.
    b. Tom Galinat requested putting out some cones near his property temporarily. The board expressed no issue.
    c. We will receive some tax reimbursement for municipal tax revenue we lost from the FEMA buyouts. Diminishing reimbursement over the course of 10 years.
    d. Johanna Branson email about symposium event in village on 10/21/26 to advise about parking.
19. Christian moved to adjourn at 8:09pm, 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.