

Minutes for the Town Meeting 2012

The legal voters of the Town of Peacham met at the Peacham Congregational Church in Peacham on Tuesday March 6, 2012 at 2:25 PM to transact the following business.

Article 1 To elect a Moderator to conduct and govern the meeting and to continue to serve as Moderator for a term of one year or until his or her successor is elected.

John Coffin nominated Robert Ide. There being no other nominations a voice vote was taken. Ide elected.

Article 2 To receive the report of the Town Auditors.

Town Auditor, Jan Eastman, was present to speak on the Auditors behalf. She commended everybody in town for moving forward following the May and August storms. She thanked the Town administrators for completing the FEMA Grant Damage Reimbursement process that was very complicated. The detailed process was handled quickly enabling the town to recover financially. She was pleased to report that the town was in very good financial shape. Rob Ide thanked Jan for her report and reinforced the fact that it was indeed an extraordinary year with an extraordinary effort.

Article 3 To elect a Town Clerk for a term of one year,

Jeff Berwick nominated Bruce Lafferty. There being no other nominations a voice vote was taken. Lafferty was elected.

Article 4 To elect a Town Treasurer and Tax Collector for a term of one year.

Jeff Berwick nominated Bruce Lafferty. There being no other nominations a voice vote was taken. Lafferty was elected.

Article 5 To elect a Selectboard member for a term of three years.

Ann Mills nominated Andy Cochran. There being no other nominations, Barry Lawson moved that nominations be closed and that the Clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Andy Cochran. Charlie Browne seconded. An affirmative voice vote closed nominations and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot. Cochran elected.

Article 6 To elect a Lister for a term of three years.

Jeff Berwick nominated Jim Minichiello. Jeff Berwick moved that nominations be closed and that the Clerk be instructed to cast one ballot. John Marshall seconded. An affirmative voice vote closed nominations and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot. Minichiello elected.

Article 7 To elect a Lister for a term of one year.

There being no nominations the Moderator moved over Article 7 and instructed the Selectboard to make an appointment for a Lister for a period of one year.

Article 8 To elect an Auditor for a term of three years.

Sam Kempton nominated Jan Eastman. There being no other nominations Tim McKay moved that nominations be closed and that the Clerk cast one ballot. Rick Scholes seconded. An affirmative voice vote closed nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot. Eastman elected.

Article 9 To elect an Auditor for a term of two years.

Sam Kempton nominated Charlie Byron. There being no other nominations, Lynn Lawson moved that nominations be closed and that the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Jensen seconded. An affirmative voice vote closed nominations and the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot. Byron was elected.

Article 10 To elect a Grand Juror for the ensuing year.

Becky Lafferty nominated Charles Browne. There being no other nominations, Charles Browne was elected by a voice vote.

Article 11 To elect a Town Agent for the ensuing year.

Charles Browne nominated Bob Fuehrer. There being no other nominations, Fuehrer was elected by a voice vote.

- Article 12 To elect a First Constable for the ensuing year.
- Ron Craig nominated John Sheehan. There being no other nominations, Sheehan was elected by a voice vote.
- Article 13 To elect a Second Constable for the ensuing year.
- Jeff Berwick nominated William Thresher. There being no further nominations, Thresher was elected by a voice vote.
- Article 14 To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for the ensuing year.
- Ron Craig nominated John Sheehan. There being no further nominations, Sheehan was elected by a voice vote.
- Article 15 To elect a Trustee of the Peacham Library for a term of three years. Joe Alper nominated Mark Clough. There being no further nominations, Clough was elected by a voice vote.
- Article 16 Shall the voters transfer \$76,160 from the General Fund to the Working Capital Fund?
- Barry Lawson moved Article 16. Jan Eastman seconded. Selectboard member Richard Browne spoke to the article. He explained that at the end of the past fiscal year the town ended up with extra cash which was left unspent due to incoming FEMA money. At the end of the year the town was able to pay off most of its outstanding equipment loans. The town was left with the Article 16 amount of \$76,160, which is considered to be extra cash and/or surplus money. The Town Auditors and Town Treasurer suggested that the town have a working capital fund of \$150,000 available to carry the town until taxes start coming in. Discussion followed. The Moderator called for a voice vote. The voice vote was in the affirmative and Article 16 passed.
- Article 17 Shall the voters appropriate \$390,042 to be raised in taxes to defray the Highway expenses of the Town?
- Jan Eastman moved the article. Jeff Berwick seconded. Selectboard Chairman, Andy Cochran, indicated that this figure is \$23,753 lower than last year's figure due to several budget cuts and other savings. There being no further questions or comments, the Moderator called for a voice vote. Article 17 passed.
- Article 18 Shall the voters appropriate \$96,403 to be raised in taxes to defray the General expenses of the Town?
- Charles Browne moved Article 18. Jonathan Reis seconded. Discussion followed. There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. Article 18 passed.
- Article 19 Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to apply any general funds carried over from the previous fiscal year to help defray the General expenses of the town in the current fiscal year?
- Barbara Grey moved Article 19. Jan Eastman seconded. Questions followed. Richard Browne spoke to the article indicating that the Working Capital Fund mentioned in Article 16 will be there every single year regardless of whether additional money is put in it or not. Article 19, however, is an article suggested by the Town Auditors and Town Treasurer in case there is a small amount of extra cash available at the end of the year which the Selectboard will have the authority to use for any purpose. A voice vote was called for. Article 19 passed.
- Article 20 Shall the Town of Peacham vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$800.00 for the support of the Danville-Peacham Senior Meal Site to provide nutritious and delicious meals and warm fellowship on Tuesday and Thursday at the Danville United Methodist Church at noon (year around) and the Peacham Congregational Church at noon in the summer. For those unable to travel to the Meal Site, a delivery service is provided.
- The Moderator explained that it had been brought to his attention by the individuals who brought the petition request forward that their intention was for this to be under Article 22. Those individuals asked that the \$800 for the Danville Meal Site be considered as part of Article 22. The Moderator asked for the unanimous consent of the meeting to include Article 20 as an addition to Article 22. Without dissent the meeting concurred.
- Article 21 To pass a Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance to protect the local food system in Peacham.
- Barry Lawson moved Article 21. Charles Browne seconded. Lynn Lawson spoke to Article 21 and read a printed resolution to substitute and amend the language of Article 21 as indicated below. Jane Woodhouse seconded.

Article 21. (proposed amendment)

Shall the voters of Peacham pass the following resolution concerning restrictions on the production and sale of local food?

Whereas, Vermont, an agricultural state, imports 95% of its food from out of state or from other countries and

Whereas, the state and federal regulations written for industrial food producers prevent local farmers from selling some products, and

Whereas, as a result, Vermonters must buy industrially grown food that has traveled thousands of miles instead of being able to buy healthy, safe, humanely-raised food produced on our neighboring farms,

Therefore, we the citizens of Peacham resolve that it is our right to produce, process, sell, and buy local food, and we call on our legislators to re-examine the over-burdensome regulations that are preventing Vermont-scale farmers and processors from selling their food.

Moderator called for a voice vote. The amendment passed. Discussion followed. There being no further discussion a voice vote was called for. Article 21 passed as amended.

Article 22

Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,079 to be raised in taxes to support the following organizations?

APPROPRIATIONS	FY 2012
Area Agency On Aging	\$660
Cabot Ambulance	
Caledonia Home Health & Hospice	\$2,000
Catamount Arts	\$500
Danville Rescue	\$5,000
Fairbanks Museum	\$650
NEK Human Services	\$769
NEK Learning Services	\$250
NEK Youth Services	\$500
Peacham Fire District 1	\$1,500
Peacham Library	\$6,500
RCT	\$250
Umbrella	\$500
VT. Assn. For The Blind	\$500
West Danville Community Club (beach)	\$500
Total Appropriations	\$20,079

Moderator reminded voters that Article 20 has been moved to become a part of this Article as well. Charles Browne moved the article. Rick Scholes seconded. Rick Scholes moved to amend the Article by increasing the amount by \$500 to include Cabot Ambulance. Charles Browne seconded. Discussion followed. A voice vote was called for. Amendment to Article 22 passed with Total Appropriations being \$21,379. Appropriations Committee Chairman, Charles Browne, discussed the appropriation process and procedures involved in considering these requests. He spoke to the increases that were requested and one that was denied. No further discussion. A voice vote was called for. Article 22 passed.

Article 23

Shall the town pay its real property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before October 3, 2012, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month and with an eight percent penalty charged them from the due date?

Jan Eastman moved Article 23. John Marshall seconded. A voice vote was held. The Moderator, quoting longtime Moderator Maurice Chandler, said "It is a vote in the affirmative and I so declare it." Article 23 passed.

Article 24

To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

1. Ron Miller, a Conservation Commission member, explained the Peacham Farm Support Fund grant available to local farmers. The application is available at the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website.
2. Rob Ide acknowledged the efforts of the Peacham Church Fellowship in providing the lunch for the Town Meeting.

3. Richard Browne spoke about how lucky we are to live in this town. The number of people that worked tirelessly after the May and August storms are many. He spoke particularly of the diligence of Andy Cochran, the Road Crew, the Fire Department, Annette Lorraine, the Auditors, the Town Clerk, and the Grant Administrator, Betsy McKay. He described it as an enormous moment in the Town's life and we all saw how things came together. He felt we should be thankful to live in a Town where things go so well.
4. Rob Ide reiterated Browne's thoughts by remembering his personal conversation with Road Crew member, Mike Tillotson, who indicated the commitment of the Road Crew to continue to work on storm repairs no matter how long it took.
5. Dave Stauffer spoke about Green-Up Day at the end of May and encouraged all to participate. Lauren Collins is the new Chairperson. A barbecue will be held that day at noon at the Peacham Elementary School.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Moderator recognized Jane Stauffer who moved to adjourn. Anita Vann seconded. A voice vote in the affirmative adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

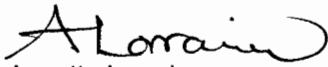
The foregoing is approved and attested by:

Peacham Selectboard

Andy Cochran



Richard Browne



Annette Lorraine

Moderator



Robert Ide

Town Clerk



Bruce Lafferty