

Minutes for the Town Meeting 2013

The legal voters of the Town of Peacham met at the Peacham Congregational Church in Peacham on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 1:00 PM.

Tim McKay thanked everyone who brought food for the tremendous lunch and reminded people that extra desserts were available for a small donation.

Tim McKay introduced Josh Kantrowitz, Peacham Town Health Officer, who announced that he can be reached through the town hall for any health issues. Quarterly meetings have been being held at the Peacham Library concerning health topics. Any health issues the public has can be discussed at the next scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 13th at the Peacham Elementary School.

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.

Charlie Browne nominated Tim McKay. Wynne Browne seconded. Dick Browne moved to close nominations. A voice vote closed nominations. A voice vote was taken and McKay was elected.

Article 2 To receive the report of the Town Auditors.

Town Auditor, Charlie Byron, referred to the auditor's report on page 52 of the Town Report. He announced that for the first time in the last ten years the town has commissioned and completed a professional audit of the town books.

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

John Marshall nominated Stan Fickes for Town Clerk. Charlie Browne seconded. There being no further nominations, Jock Gill moved to close nominations. A voice vote closed nominations. A voice vote was taken. Fickes was elected.

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

John Marshall nominated Stan Fickes. Charlie Browne seconded. John Marshall moved to close nominations. Diana Senturia seconded. A voice vote closed nominations. A voice vote was taken. Fickes was elected.

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

Barry Lawson nominated Annette Lorraine. John Marshall seconded. There being no further nominations, Rick Scholes moved to close nominations. Diana Senturia seconded. A voice vote closed nominations. Charlie Browne moved that the Town Clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Annette Lorraine. Richard Browne seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot was held. Lorraine elected.

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

Rusty Barber nominated Jackie Kempton. Jim Minichiello seconded. There being no further nominations, Diana Senturia moved to close nominations and to instruct the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jackie Kempton. John Marshall seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Jackie Kempton was held. Kempton elected.

Jim Minichiello announced that Town Lister, Jeff Lamphere, was retiring this year and that the town owes Jeff a big round of thanks for his service to the town over the past years.

Article 7 To elect an Auditor for a term of three years.

John Marshall nominated Charlie Byron. Diana Senturia seconded. There being no further nominations, Dick Browne moved to close nominations and to instruct the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Charlie Byron. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Charlie Byron was held. Byron was elected.

Article 8 To elect a Grand Juror for a term of one year.

Dick Browne nominated Charlie Browne. Kathy Corcoran seconded. There being no further nominations, Dick Browne moved to close nominations and to instruct the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Charlie Browne. Rick Scholes seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Charlie Browne was held. Browne was elected. There was a brief discussion regarding the importance of the Grand Juror position.

Article 9 To elect a Town Agent for a term of one year.

Charlie Browne nominated Bob Fuehrer. John Marshall seconded. There being no further nominations, Jerry Senturia moved that the nominations be closed and that the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Bob Fuehrer. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Bob Fuehrer was held. Fuehrer elected.

Article 10 To elect a First Constable for a term of one year.

John Marshall nominated John Sheehan. There being no further nominations, Charlie Browne moved that the nominations be closed and that the Town Clerk cast one ballot for John Sheehan. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for John Sheehan was held. Sheehan elected.

Article 11 To elect a Second Constable for a term of one year.

Jerry Senturia nominated Bill Thresher. There being no further nominations, Diana Senturia moved to close nominations and instruct the town Clerk to cast one ballot for Bill Thresher. Barry Lawson seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Bill Thresher was held. Thresher elected.

Article 12 To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of one year.

John Marshall nominated John Sheehan. There being no further nominations, Dick Browne moved to close nominations and to instruct the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for John Sheehan. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for John Sheehan was held. Sheehan elected.

Article 13 To elect a Trustee of the Peacham Library to fill the remaining year of a three year term.

Jim Minichiello nominated Carolyn Deasy. There being no further nominations, Dick Browne moved that the nominations be closed and that the Town Clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Carolyn Deasy. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Carolyn Deasy was held. Deasy elected.

Selectboard member, Andy Cochran, asked that the voters thank Bruce Lafferty, who is retiring this year for his assistance as Town Clerk for the last eight years.

Article 14 Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$782,342, of which \$482,428 shall be raised by taxes and \$299,914 by nontax revenue?

Diana Senturia moved the motion. Rick Scholes seconded. Dick Browne commended the Selectboard and Road Foreman, Mark Chase, for keeping the roads in such excellent shape. He felt that we should thank Mark Chase, in particular, for dealing with the turnover in personnel and the particularly difficult winter we have had. Dick Browne spoke to Article 14 and indicated that this article is worded completely differently than it has been in the past. He was concerned that the Selectboard, by limiting themselves to a total figure, have limited their ability to respond to emergencies such as the storms we had a few years ago. The Town has always voted on an amount to be raised in taxes not an actual budget figure, and he moved to amend the article to read, "Shall the voters approve \$482,428 to be raised in taxes to defray the expenses of the town." Betsy McKay seconded. Selectboard Chairperson, Annette Lorraine, responded to the amendment. She stated that this is a format that the Vermont League of cities and Towns has recommended for all towns to use this year. VLCT recognizes that it's acceptable to have other budget numbers, however, the Selectboard does have the authority to exceed the budgeted amount especially in an emergency. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of voting on a budget as compared to the importance of voting on a total amount to be raised by taxes. No further discussion took place. The Moderator explained that a voice vote on the amendment indicated the following: a yes vote would approve the amendment, a no vote would defeat the amendment. A voice vote was taken. The motion to amend Article 14 was defeated. There was no further discussion on Article 14. An affirmative voice vote passed Article 14.

Article 15 Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$30,083 to be raised in taxes to support the following organizations?

APPROPRIATIONS	FY 2014
Area Agency On Aging	\$660.00
Caledonia Home Health & Hospice	\$2,000.00
Catamount Arts	\$500.00
Danville Rescue	\$11,704.00
Danville-Peacham Senior Meals Site	\$800.00
Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium	\$650.00
Kingdom Animal Shelter	\$500.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. (Adult Basic Education)	\$250.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	\$769.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	\$500.00
Peacham Community Housing	\$1,000.00
Peacham Fire District 1	\$1,500.00
Peacham Library	\$7,500.00
Rural Community Transportation, Inc.	\$250.00
Umbrella	\$500.00
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$500.00
West Danville Community Club	\$500.00
Total Appropriations	\$30,083.00

Jerry Senturia moved the article. Diana Senturia seconded. Charlie Browne, Appropriations Chairperson, spoke to the increase appropriation amount requests. Kathy Corcoran spoke to the increased request from

Danville Rescue. She explained that the ESI Danville Rescue Board has changed from Lyndon Rescue to Calex Rescue for management services. This change will improve emergency services and enable Danville Rescue to survive financially. Charlie Browne clarified the appropriation for the Peacham Library. A footnote shows that the library has asked for an increase in their request this year when, in fact, it is the same as last year's. Rick Scholes moved that the article be amended to include an additional \$50.00 for Green Up Day. Rusty Barber seconded. Discussion of the amendment and the town's petitioning policy for appropriations ensued. The amendment to Article 15 reads "Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$30,133.00 to be raised in taxes to support the following organizations including \$50.00 to support Green Up Day?" The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment. The amendment passed. There being no further discussion, an affirmative voice vote was held. Article 15 passed.

Article 16 Shall the Town pay its real property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before October 31, 2014 with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month and with an eight percent penalty charged against them from the due date?

Jerry Senturia moved the motion. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote was held. Article 16 passed.

Article 17 Shall the Town, from this time forward to be consistent with 24 V.S.A. §1682, make the annual Town Report available by (a) first giving voters and residents notice of the Town Report's availability by posting notices in at least three in public places within town at least 30 days before the annual meeting stating when, where and how the Town Report will be available, and (b) at least ten days before the annual meeting having paper copies of the Town Report available for pickup at the Town Clerk's office, and (c) mailing a copy of the Town Report to any voter or resident of Peacham upon that person's telephone, email or written request to the Town Clerk's office?

Diana Senturia moved the article. Kathy Corcoran seconded. Annette Lorraine spoke to the article. She reported that the Secretary of State's office has said that the town need not mail a copy of the Town Report to all voters or residents, but it is crucial that we give notice to the people of the town, by the means listed in Article 17, of the Town Report's availability. There being no further discussion, an affirmative voice vote was held. Article 17 passed.

Article 18 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

The Moderator recognized the following speakers:

1. Bob Fuehrer spoke about the Peacham Café Project currently underway in the village. Bob mentioned that an open house will be held in the next couple of weeks. He thanked Peacham Housing and the over 100 donors. Bob expressed his and the Café group's pride at providing a new gathering place.
2. Rusty Barber, volunteer architect for the Peacham Historical Association, discussed the construction plans for the PHA's proposed new Archival Building addition. Town zoning requirements still need to be met and he asked for a non-binding vote for expanding PHA's original land request from the town from .21 acre to 1 acre to meet the zoning regulation. By voice vote, the assembly unanimously approved of the proposed additional land.
3. Julie Hansen inquired about the archival materials being stored by the PHA and concern that old town records be available. Diana Senturia

explained that the archives are made up of old town records, records of past town organizations, vital records information, diaries of civil war veterans, historical quilts, clothing, paintings and banners which are all part of Peacham's heritage. The additional space provided by the proposed Archival Building will create an ideal showcase for these artifacts. Dave Stauffer reported that former Town Clerk and local historian, Lorna Quimby, assured town officials that no legal town documents are in the PHA collection.

4. Bob Hansen, Town Zoning Administrator, explained the zoning and subdivision procedures that must be followed for this project to proceed.
5. Annette Lorraine stressed the importance of the PHA and the town itself being bound by its own zoning by-laws.
6. Suzanne Rhodes proposed to the voters present that a non-binding resolution in favor of the PHA Archival Building be given. By a hand vote the resolution passed.
7. Ron Miller explained the Peacham Farm Support Fund grant. Applications for the grant are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the Peacham website.
8. Selectboard member, Nate Giroux, spoke enthusiastically about the importance of the town meeting process and also urged people to attend Selectboard meetings. He stressed how fortunate we all are to live in such a beautiful and historic town such as Peacham.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Moderator recognized Rick Scholes who moved to adjourn. Diana Senturia seconded. A voice vote in the affirmative adjourned the meeting,.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

The foregoing is approved and attested by:

Peacham Selectboard

Annette Lorraine

Andy Cochran

Nathan Giroux

Moderator


Timothy McKay

Town Clerk


Bruce Lafferty