APPROVED 1 **TOWN OF PELHAM** 2 3 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN-MEETING MINUTES April 4, 2023** 4 5 6 7 **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Cote called the meeting to order at approximately 8 6:30pm 9 10 Jaie Bergeron, Heather Corbett, Kevin Cote, Jason Croteau, Charlene Takesian, 11 PRESENT: 12 Town Administrator Joseph Roark 13 14 **ABSENT:** 15 None 16 17 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 18 19 20 21 **MEETING MINUTES REVIEW** 22 23 March 21, 2023 24 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Croteau) To approve the March 21, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. 25 26 27 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried. 28 29 30 **OPEN FORUM** 31 32 Bill Scanzani of Victoria Circle approached the Board in open forum. Mr. Scanzani explained that there are unpaid internet bills that the Town never received for the Historical Society 33 34 building. He asked the Board if the Town can catch up on the bills and if he could work with 35 36

building. He stated that he needs internet in order to operate the multi-colored lights he has in the Brian Demers to move the internet from his account to the Town's account. He noted that the current price is around \$37.00 a month. Chairman Cote asked if they turned off the Wi-Fi in that building. Mr. Scanzani explained that they did turn off the WiFi and that it has been off since September.

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Mr. Bergeron explained that he thinks if they switch the internet from its current account to the Town's account that the price will go up to \$150.00. Mr. Bergeron also stated that the original agreement was that the Town will pay for the internet for four months, then it would have to be covered through funding raised by the Historical Society. Mr. Bergeron asked if Mr. Scanzani was getting the bills for the internet. Mr. Scanzani stated that no one was receiving the bill.

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Town Administrator Roark explained that the Town does not receive their internet from Infinium like the Historical Society's building does, he stated that the Town's internet is through Xfininty.

He added that if they were to switch the Historical Society's building from Infinium to Xfinity it would be considered a business account and the price would rise.

Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Scanzani what his original plan was when the Board agreed to pay for the internet for four months. Mr. Scanzani explained that since it is a Town owned building, he was hoping the Town would continue to pay for the internet.

Ms. Takesian noted that the Town does cover the internet costs for all other Town buildings.

Mr. Bergeron suggested that Mr. Scanzani get more information about the internet costs and contract and get on the agenda for the next meeting so they can formally discuss covering the costs and make a decision.

Mr. Scanzani explained that there is money set aside in the Town's account to fix the Historical Society slate roof that is leaking. He explained that they already have someone lined up to fix the roof and was wondering if he could schedule the repairman to come out as soon as possible. Chairman Cote asked if Mr. Scanzani received an estimate for the repairs. Mr. Scanzani said he was quoted roughly \$30,000.00. Mr. Scanzani noted that it was already approved and put aside in the budget for this year.

Chairman Cote stated that they will put Mr. Scanzani on the next agenda for both topics.

APPOINTMENTS

Chief Anne Perriello, Police Department: Donation of rubberized flooring in training gym

 Chief Perriello and Kelly Fleming, Chief of Staff for Taymax Group, came before the Board. Chief Perriello explained that retired detective Tim Kelleher is the owner of Taymax Group. Chief Perriello had reached out to him inquiring about rubber flooring for the expansion space. She also stated that they cleared out the storage room completely and herself and a group of officers painted the room. The room is approximately 30x30. Chief Perriello stated that they want to start doing defensive training tactics more regularly in the space. Chief Perriello explained that she approached Mr. Kelleher from Taymax about a quote for rubberized flooring and he offered to donate the flooring for the entire room. The estimated cost of the flooring donation is around \$4,000.00. Chief Perriello added that this room will save the Police Department money since they will be hosting a Jiu Jitsu class for law enforcement in July. By hosting this class, it will allow them to have three officers from their agency to get certified in Jiu Jitsu for free, which normally costs around \$1,200.00 a person. She stated that they will also use the program for RAD, which is a self-defense course for women.

 Town Administrator Roark asked if this donation included installation or if it was only for materials. Chief Perriello explained that it is for materials only and her plan is receive a quote for the installation and use drug forfeiture money to cover the costs, so it would be no expense to the tax-payers.

MOTION: (Corbett/Bergeron) To accept the donation of rubberized flooring in the training 96 room from the Taymax Group.

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VOTE: 99 100

(5-0-0) The motion carried.

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Interviews/Appointments: Forestry Committee and Water Commission candidates

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Chairman Cote stated that the Forestry Committee is looking for two members for three-year terms that would expire in 2026.

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Forestry Committee – Michael Andre

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- Michael Andre, of 105 Currier Road, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry 111
- Committee. Mr. Andre stated that he has been a Pelham resident for over twenty-years and is the 112
- trail-master for the Snow Mobile Club. He is also a member of the OHRV Committee. 113

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- Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Andre what he thinks the role of the being on the Forestry Committee is. 115
- 116 Mr. Andre explained that he believes it is to manage the land and to allow the Town's residents
- to make the best use of the land. 117

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Forestry Committee – James Fisher

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- Mr. Fisher, of 47 Seavey Road, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry Committee. 122
- Mr. Fisher stated that he has been a Pelham resident his whole life and has learned a lot about 123
- forestry from his father. He stated that his father was a Cheshire County Forester of the year in 124
- 1982. He knows a lot about tree species, flora and fauna, and forestry in general. He added that 125
 - he will be a valuable team-player on the Committee.

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- Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Fisher what he thinks the role of being on the Forestry Committee is. Mr. 128
- Fisher stated that forestry should not only protect the forest but should also allow residents to 129
- access the forest for a number of activities like bike riding, horse riding, and others. He added 130
- 131 that he would like to see the forest become more accessible for everyone, including those in wheelchairs.
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- Ms. Takesian asked Mr. Fisher about his application comment that stated he believes the 134
- Forestry Committee is taken over by a one-sided majority. Mr. Fisher stated that there never used 135
- to be an issue with residents using bikes on trails, and now some people on the Committee want 136
- to ban bikes on the trails. Mr. Fisher explained that there should be a way for everyone to get 137
- 138 along and utilize the trails. Ms. Takesian asked if everything was permitted on trails except
- motorized vehicles. Mr. Fisher stated that it is not the case for all of the trails in Town. Mr. 139
- Croteau noted that they were only discussing banning electric bikes on the trails, not regular 140
- pedal bikes. 141

Ms. Corbett asked Mr. Fisher how he would go about handling a specific disagreement if he was a member of the Forestry Committee. Mr. Fisher explained that he would conduct a lot of research on the issue.

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147148 Forestry Committee - Nick Spanos

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- Nick Spanos, of 9 Claudine Drive, is applying for a three-year term on the Forestry Committee.
- Mr. Spanos stated that he is on his second term on the sub-committee. He stated that he has been
- attending the Forestry Committees since 2018 and tries to contribute as much as he can. He
- explained that he has plowed parking lots in Town before the Town started plowing all the lots,
- cleaned trash out of ponds, temporarily repaired a bridge in Town and repaired a sign in Town.
- Mr. Spanos stated that he would like to be an official member of the Committee so he can
- 156 contribute even more. He also explained that he thinks one of the most important aspects to
- uphold on the Committee is safety. He also stated that he thinks that it is important for Boards to
- have diversity in their thinking and get along for the best results for the Town.

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Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Spanos what he thinks the purpose of the role on the Forestry Committee is. Mr. Spanos stated that he thinks the purpose is to manage and maintain the forests and wildlife.

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Forestry Committee - John Picard

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John Picard, of 57 South Shore Drive, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry
Committee. Mr. Picard stated that he is a life-long resident of Pelham who enjoys the woods and
trails around his home. He thinks it is important to keep the trails in Town open and usable for
residents, Police, Fire, and other emergency services.

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172 Chairman Cote asked Mr. Picard if he is a part of any organizations in Town. He stated he is a member of the Snowmobile Club.

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- Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Picard what he believes the role of the Forestry Committee is. Mr. Picard explained that he believes the role of the Forestry Committee is to make the woods accessible to
- all residents. He added that he believes the Forestry Committee has been leaning towards
- restricting access to the woods, and he does not agree with that. Ms. Takesian asked if he thinks
- that ATVs should be allowed on the trails. Mr. Picard stated that ATVs are not legal in Pelham,
- but he thinks they should be legal in Pelham on class six roads. He does not agree that they
- should be allowed in conservation areas. He stated that he understands certain restrictions but
- thinks some are too restricting, like banning shooting.

Forestry Committee - Dale Gallaher

- Dale Gallager, of 265 Windham Road, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry
- 186 Committee. Mr. Gallaher stated that he has been working in the Town's forests since 2012 and
- has done a lot of work maintaining the trails. He also has created trails and installed benches in
- 188 Town. Mr. Gallaher was a Troop Leader for twelve-years and a Scoutmaster for seven of those

years, he is also the President of a software company. Mr. Gallaher explained that he believes his laid-back approach and leadership experience will help him work with other members of the Committee. He also added that he believes the role of a Forestry Committee member is to focus on forest management and the safe activities that can be allowed in forests. He thinks it is important to take everyone's opinions into consideration.

Forestry Committee - Mike Gendreau

Mike Gendreau, of 9 Harley Road, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry Committee. Mr. Gendreau stated that he has a lot of Board experience. He explained that he was the secretary for the Pelham Board of Riders for many years. He also served on the Conservation Commission and eventually became Vice-Chair. He is also sits on the Board of Trustee's at his son's Charter School in Salem. He explained how being on both the Board of Riders and the Conservation Commission he has been able to see both sides of the Forestry Committee. Mr. Gendreau stated that different personalities working together is what makes Boards the best they can be.

Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Gendreau what he believes the role of being on the Forestry Committee is. Mr. Gendreau explained that he believes it should focus on managing the Town forest, timber harvests and the Town money allocated to forestry.

Ms. Corbett asked Mr. Gendreau how service to the Conservation Commission balance or form his opinion on OHRV. Mr. Gendreau stated that he is also on the OHRV Sub-committee, and he feels that this situation is a challenge, as the OHRVs are illegal but people in Town still ride them. He stated that he would like to find a way for OHRVs to be allowed in some compacity in Town.

Forestry Committee – Linda Irish-Simpson

Linda Irish-Simpson, of 52 Sagewood Drive, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry Committee. Ms. Irish-Simpson stated that she has been attending Forestry Committee meetings since about 2017. Two years ago, she was on the Forestry Committee sub-committee, and since then she has initiated monthly articles in the Evergreen Newspaper highlighting some of things that Forestry does and hopes to do. She also started a hike challenge for those in Town, where if they hike all 22 miles of trails in Town they get a patch that is shaped like a boot that says "Pelham Hike Challenge".

Ms. Irish-Simpson is also a trail adopter for Cutler-Spalding and Veterans'. She also has gotten the word out to residents about adopting a trail in Town, and has now doubled the amount of trail adopters. She stated that she feels she can make more of an impact being on the Committee. Ms. Irish-Simpson added that she thinks the role of the Forestry Committee is to follow the State mandated RSAs, maintain and protect deeds, and preserve forest.

Forestry Committee – Tim Kennedy

- 237 Tim Kennedy, of 109 Garland Drive, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry
- 238 Committee. Mr. Kennedy stated that he has been on the Forestry Sub-committee for a couple of
- years and has been actively working on trails for hundreds of hours in the past three years. Mr.
- 240 Kennedy added that he was a trip leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club for forty-seven
- years, and trail maintenance for 30 years. He feels that he will bring his expertise on how to
- 242 maintain and fix trails to the Forestry Committee. He has also brought back the Red Trail on
- 243 Gumpas Pond.

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Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Kennedy what his vision for the Forestry Committee. Mr. Kennedy stated that he believes the Forestry Committee needs to be in a position to protect and maintain the forest, and also be able to maintain the trail systems that are becoming more popular in the Town. He stated that it is also a goal to make trails more age-friendly, for both younger and older populations.

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Forestry Committee - Ray Brunelle, Jr.

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Ray Brunelle, Jr., of 3 Matthew Drive, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry Committee. Mr. Brunelle stated that he has been a lifelong resident of Pelham and is very familiar with all of the land in Town. He has also been very active in the Snow Mobile Club for a couple of decades. He stated that he believes it is very important that the Forestry Committee continue to work to acquire more parcels of land. He explained how the Town has a lot of many valuable pieces of land. Mr. Brunelle stated that he has been on the Sub-committee for the past two years. He stated that land management and land acquisition is the primarily role of the Forestry Committee.

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Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Brunelle what his vision for the Forestry Committee is. Mr. Brunelle stated that he sees a very good Forestry Committee evolving into the future, working towards some of the core values it was initially created on. He thinks it is important to look into the future and see what can be improved on down the road.

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Chairman Cote asked Mr. Brunelle about the 60-acre parcel the Town acquired by Gumpas Pond, and if he thinks it should be left alone or if trails should be installed there. Mr. Brunelle stated that he thinks the Town should evaluate it due to there being a number of trails already in that area, and that he doesn't think every area needs to be walkable trails.

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Forestry Committee – John LaRochelle

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- John LaRochelle, of 13 Surrey Lane, is applying for the three-year term on the Forestry Committee. Mr. LaRochelle stated that he has lived in Pelham his whole life, and that his
- Committee. Mr. LaRochelle stated that he has lived in Pelham his whole life, and that his Grandfather was the Town's Building Inspector. He said he loves how diverse the Town of
- Pelham is. Mr. LaRochelle explained that he was the spearhead for the OHRV Committee and
- believes OHRVs are helpful in maintaining trails in order to bring supplies and clear debris. He
- also explained that four-wheelers go as slow as 5 to 6 mph through the trails and will not hit any
- walkers on the trails.

285 286	Chairman Cote noted that Mr. LaRochelle brings an interesting perspective to OHRVs on trails, as they can give access to people who normally may not being able to access the trails.		
287 288	Mr. La Doohalla stated that he might not be the most experiences condidate, as he has only been		
289	Mr. LaRochelle stated that he might not be the most experiences candidate, as he has only been on one Committee, but he thinks he can be a valuable asset to the Forestry Committee. He thinks		
290	compromise is an important part of being on a Committee.		
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292	Chairman Cote commended Mr. LaRochelle for being fair to work with and being able to		
293	compromise and form the OHRV Committee.		
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295	Chairman Cata stated that these years all the applications for the true modifiers on the Forestmy		
296 297	Chairman Cote stated that those were all the applications for the two positions on the Forestry Committee.		
298	Committee.		
299	MOTION:	(Croteau/Takesian) To appoint Mike Genereau to the three-year term on the	
300		Forestry Committee.	
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302	VOTE:	(5-0-0) The motion carried.	
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304	MOTION.	(Contract) Contract (Contract) To a second Description of the first three contracts of the Franctical	
305 306	MOTION:	(Croteau/Corbett) To appoint Ray Brunelle to the three-year term on the Forestry Committee.	
307		Committee.	
308	VOTE:	(3-2-0) The motion carried.	
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311	Chairman Cote thanked everyone who applied for the positions.		
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313	Mr. Spanos approached the Board and stated that Raymond Brunelle's seat will now need to be		
314	replaced on the Forestry Committee's Sub-committee. Chairman Cote stated that the Forestry		
315 316	Committee will appoint the next Sub-committee member at their next meeting.		
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318	Chairman Cote stated that there are two two-year alternate positions open on the Water		
319	Commission.		
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321	Water Commission – Chris Hopkinson		
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323	Chris Hopkinson, of 4 Shelly Drive, is applying for a two-year alternate position on the Water		
324	Commission. Mr. Hopkinson stated that this would be his first time serving on a Commission in		
325 326	Town. He stated that he has been a nurse for seventeen years, and knows how important water quality and access is for health. He thinks that his background would be a valuable asset to the		
327	Water Commission. He also explained that he thinks being an alternate will help him learn more		
328		about being on a Commission.	
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Water Commission – Edwin Castilla

Edwin Castilla, of 2 LeBlanc Road, is applying for a two-year alternate position on the Water Commission. Mr. Castilla explained that he is a professional engineer with over eighteen years of experience in the evaluation, treatment, designs, and construction of wastewater systems for municipalities. He is a civil engineer, with his Masters' and PhD in environmental engineering. He works for Jacob Environmental, which is the biggest consulting company in the United States.

MOTION: (Corbett/Croteau) To appoint Chris Hopkinson to the two-year term on the Water

343 Commission.

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

MOTION: (Corbett/Takesian) To appoint Edwin Castilla to the two-year term on the Water

Commission.

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

Mike Gendreau, OHRV Committee: Update

Mike Gendreau, of 9 Harley Road, came before the Board to give an update on the OHRV Committee. Mr. Gendreau stated that they have been trying to conduct a feasibility study on OHRV usage, and was hoping the Board would grant the Committee another twelve months to operate.

Mr. Croteau stated that the Committee has worked tirelessly to try and find a safe piece of land in Town to ride on, and they have not been able to find a solution yet. The OHRV Committee would like a year extension to try and find a better solution.

Ms. Takesian asked if they would be able to ride OHRVs on the trails if they did not use them at full power or the kind of vehicle that can go on the trails. Mr. Gendreau stated that they have been trying to find the right place to do that on, but have not been able to. They are looking for an area with limited wetlands. The hardest part is trying to find the right location due to limited parcels of land and deed restrictions.

Ms. Takesian asked if there was pushback from abutters due to the noise. Mr. Gendreau explained that noise was one of the reasons, but also due to damaging the land. He thinks brining all opinions in is the best way to come up with a compromise. He mentioned how a lot of people care about making this happen and would like another year to keep trying.

Mr. Croteau noted that a lot of people in Town think this is a good idea but have no interest in it happening near their house. He also stated that OHRVs have been banned in Town for a long time due to them having a stigma. He thinks there is a right way to come up with a compromise, and thinks it is important to hold OHRV riders accountable as well to respect the trails.

Mr. Gendreau noted that there have been some complaints, but more and more residents in Town are interested in riding OHRVs. He thinks it is important that there is a proper way to file any complaints, maybe with the Police Department.

Chairman Cote stated that he had no idea that OHRVs were banned in Town when he first moved here.

Mr. Bergeron asked the Board if they can legally extend the OHRV Committee, since the warrant article that was voted on only gave them a twelve month long term. Chairman Cote explained that they can extend it without any problem. Ms. Corbett asked if the OHRV Committee was formed by the Board of Selectmen or if the Town voted to form it. Mr. Cote stated that the original wording of the warrant article was changed, and that the Board has the power to create Sub-committees without a vote. Mr. Croteau added that they got legal advice from Attorney Radigan stating that they had authority to extend to the Committee. Town Administrator Roark explained that this was a petition warrant article, and that all petition warrant articles are advisory only, meaning the Board of Selectmen has the ability to follow or not follow certain parts of the article. He added that petition warrant articles are non-binding.

MOTION: (Corbett/Takesian) To extend the term of the OHRV Committee.

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Selectmen Croteau wanted to thank all of the volunteer applicants for the Forestry Committee, and encourage them to continue their efforts with the Committee. He added that there is a field clean up day for the Pelham Little League, Saturday April 8, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

Mr. Cote asked if they ended up extending the T-Ball Fields, and how it worked out. Mr. Croteau stated that it went good, but the grass did not grow to where they were hoping it would be, so they are going to decide in another week if they will wait to use it until next season.

Selectmen Takesian had nothing to report.

Chairman Cote had nothing to report.

Mr. Bergeron had nothing to report.

Ms. Corbett had nothing to report.

Town Administrator Roark had nothing to report.

REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Recording Secretary

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MOTION: 429 (Corbett/Croteau) Request for non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II, A (personnel) and (matters to which if discussed publicly would affect adversely the 430 reputation of any person). 431 432 **ROLLCALL VOTE:** 433 434 435 Selectman Corbett – Yes Selectman Bergeron-Yes 436 Selectman Cote- Yes 437 Selectman Takesian – Yes 438 Selectman Croteau – Yes 439 440 (5-0-0) The motion carried. 441 442 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take 443 any other action publicly, except to seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the 444 meeting. The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 8:08 pm. 445 446 447 448 **ADJOURNMENT** 449 Respectfully submitted, 450 451 452 Makayla Clougherty