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2
3 **NOT APPROVED**
4 **TOWN OF PELHAM**
5 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN–MEETING MINUTES**
6 **April 4, 2023**

7 **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Cote called the meeting to order at approximately
8 6:30pm
9

10
11 **PRESENT:** Jaie Bergeron, Heather Corbett, Kevin Cote, Jason Croteau, Charlene Takesian,
12 Town Administrator Joseph Roark
13

14
15 **ABSENT:** None
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17
18 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
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20
21 **MEETING MINUTES REVIEW**
22

23 March 21, 2023
24

25 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Croteau) To approve the March 21, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.
26

27 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.
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29

30 **OPEN FORUM**
31

32 Bill Scanzani of Victoria Circle approached the Board in open forum. Mr. Scanzani explained
33 that there are unpaid internet bills that the Town never received for the Historical Society
34 building. He stated that he needs internet in order to operate the multi-colored lights he has in the
35 building. He asked the Board if the Town can catch up on the bills and if he could work with
36 Brian Demers to move the internet from his account to the Town’s account. He noted that the
37 current price is around \$37.00 a month. Chairman Cote asked if they turned off the Wi-Fi in that
38 building. Mr. Scanzani explained that they did turn off the WiFi and that it has been off since
39 September.
40

41 Mr. Bergeron explained that he thinks if they switch the internet from its current account to the
42 Town’s account that the price will go up to \$150.00. Mr. Bergeron also stated that the original
43 agreement was that the Town will pay for the internet for four months, then it would have to be
44 covered through funding raised by the Historical Society. Mr. Bergeron asked if Mr. Scanzani
45 was getting the bills for the internet. Mr. Scanzani stated that no one was receiving the bill.
46

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

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

51
52 Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Scanzani what his original plan was when the Board agreed to pay for the
53 internet for four months. Mr. Scanzani explained that since it is a Town owned building, he was
54 hoping the Town would continue to pay for the internet.

55
56 Ms. Takesian noted that the Town does cover the internet costs for all other Town buildings.

57
58 Mr. Bergeron suggested that Mr. Scanzani get more information about the internet costs and
59 contract and get on the agenda for the next meeting so they can formally discuss covering the
60 costs and make a decision.

61
62 Mr. Scanzani explained that there is money set aside in the Town's account to fix the Historical
63 Society slate roof that is leaking. He explained that they already have someone lined up to fix the
64 roof and was wondering if he could schedule the repairman to come out as soon as possible.
65 Chairman Cote asked if Mr. Scanzani received an estimate for the repairs. Mr. Scanzani said he
66 was quoted roughly \$30,000.00. Mr. Scanzani noted that it was already approved and put aside
67 in the budget for this year.

68
69 Chairman Cote stated that they will put Mr. Scanzani on the next agenda for both topics.

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71

72 APPOINTMENTS

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74

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

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77

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

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

95

96 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Bergeron) To accept the donation of rubberized flooring in the training
97 room from the Taymax Group.
98

99 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.
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103 **Interviews/Appointments: Forestry Committee and Water Commission candidates**

104

105 Chairman Cote stated that the Forestry Committee is looking for two members for three-year
106 terms that would expire in 2026.
107

108 Forestry Committee – Michael Andre

109

110 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
114

115 Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Andre what he thinks the role of the being on the Forestry Committee is.
116 Mr. Andre explained that he believes it is to manage the land and to allow the Town's residents
117 to make the best use of the land.
118

119 Forestry Committee – James Fisher

120

121 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.
126
127

128 Mr. Croteau asked Mr. Fisher what he thinks the role of being on the Forestry Committee is. Mr.
129 Fisher stated that forestry should not only protect the forest but should also allow residents to
130 access the forest for a number of activities like bike riding, horse riding, and others. He added
131 that he would like to see the forest become more accessible for everyone, including those in
132 wheelchairs.
133

134 Ms. Takesian asked Mr. Fisher about his application comment that stated he believes the
135 Forestry Committee is taken over by a one-sided majority. Mr. Fisher stated that there never used
136 to be an issue with residents using bikes on trails, and now some people on the Committee want
137 to ban bikes on the trails. Mr. Fisher explained that there should be a way for everyone to get
138 along and utilize the trails. Ms. Takesian asked if everything was permitted on trails except
139 motorized vehicles. Mr. Fisher stated that it is not the case for all of the trails in Town. Mr.
140 Croteau noted that they were only discussing banning electric bikes on the trails, not regular
141 pedal bikes.
142

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

146
147

148 Forestry Committee - Nick Spanos

149

150 Nick Spanos, of 9 Claudine Drive, is applying for a three-year term on the Forestry Committee.
151 Mr. Spanos stated that he is on his second term on the sub-committee. He stated that he has been
152 attending the Forestry Committees since 2018 and tries to contribute as much as he can. He
153 explained that he has plowed parking lots in Town before the Town started plowing all the lots,
154 cleaned trash out of ponds, temporarily repaired a bridge in Town and repaired a sign in Town.
155 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
157 uphold on the Committee is safety. He also stated that he thinks that it is important for Boards to
158 have diversity in their thinking and get along for the best results for the Town.

159

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

163

164

165 Forestry Committee - John Picard

166

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

171

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

174

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

183 Forestry Committee - Dale Gallaher

184

185 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
187 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

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

194

195

196 Forestry Committee - Mike Gendreau

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

206

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

210

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

216

217

218 Forestry Committee – Linda Irish-Simpson

219

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

227

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

233

234

235 Forestry Committee – Tim Kennedy

236

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
239 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
241 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.

244

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

250

251

252 Forestry Committee - Ray Brunelle, Jr.

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254

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

263

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

268

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

273

274

275 Forestry Committee – John LaRochelle

276

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

284

285 Chairman Cote noted that Mr. LaRoche brings an interesting perspective to OHRVs on trails,
286 as they can give access to people who normally may not being able to access the trails.

287
288 Mr. LaRoche stated that he might not be the most experiences candidate, as he has only been
289 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.

291
292 Chairman Cote commended Mr. LaRoche for being fair to work with and being able to
293 compromise and form the OHRV Committee.

294
295
296 Chairman Cote stated that those were all the applications for the two positions on the Forestry
297 Committee.

298
299 **MOTION:** (Croteau/Takesian) To appoint Mike Genereau to the three-year term on the
300 Forestry Committee.

301
302 **VOTE:** (5-0-0) The motion carried.

303
304
305 **MOTION:** (Croteau/Corbett) To appoint Ray Brunelle to the three-year term on the Forestry
306 Committee.

307
308 **VOTE:** (3-2-0) The motion carried.

309
310
311 Chairman Cote thanked everyone who applied for the positions.

312
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 Committee will appoint the next Sub-committee member at their next meeting.

316
317
318 Chairman Cote stated that there are two two-year alternate positions open on the Water
319 Commission.

320
321 Water Commission – Chris Hopkinson

322
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 Town. He stated that he has been a nurse for seventeen years, and knows how important water
326 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.

329
330
331 Water Commission – Edwin Castilla

332

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

339

340

341

342 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Croteau) To appoint Chris Hopkinson to the three-year term on the
343 Forestry Committee.

344

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

346

347

348 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Takesian) To appoint Edwin Castilla to the three-year term on the
349 Forestry Committee.

350

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

352

353

354

355 **Mike Gendreau, OHRV Committee: Update**

356

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

361

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

365

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

371

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

376

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

381
382 Mr. Gendreau noted that there have been some complaints, but more and more residents in Town
383 are interested in riding OHRVs. He thinks it is important that there is a proper way to file any
384 complaints, maybe with the Police Department.

385
386 Chairman Cote stated that he had no idea that OHRVs were banned in Town when he first
387 moved here.

388
389 Mr. Bergeron asked the Board if they can legally extend the OHRV Committee, since the
390 warrant article that was voted on only gave them a twelve month long term. Chairman Cote
391 explained that they can extend it without any problem. Ms. Corbett asked if the OHRV
392 Committee was formed by the Board of Selectmen or if the Town voted to form it. Mr. Cote
393 stated that the original wording of the warrant article was changed, and that the Board has the
394 power to create Sub-committees without a vote. Mr. Croteau added that they got legal advice
395 from Attorney Radigan stating that they had authority to extend to the Committee. Town
396 Administrator Roark explained that this was a petition warrant article, and that all petition
397 warrant articles are advisory only, meaning the Board of Selectmen has the ability to follow or
398 not follow certain parts of the article. He added that petition warrant articles are non-binding.

399

400

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

402

403

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

405

406

407 **SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

408

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

412

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

416

417 **Selectmen Takesian** had nothing to report.

418

419 **Chairman Cote** had nothing to report.

420

421 **Mr. Bergeron** had nothing to report.

422

423 **Ms. Corbett** had nothing to report.

424

425 **Town Administrator Roark** had nothing to report.

426

427 **REQUEST FOR NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

428

429 **MOTION:** (Corbett/Croteau) Request for non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II, A & C
430 (personnel) and (matters to which if discussed publicly would affect adversely the
431 reputation of any person).

432
433 **ROLLCALL VOTE:**

434
435 Selectman Corbett – Yes
436 Selectman Bergeron– Yes
437 Selectman Cote– Yes
438 Selectman Takesian – Yes
439 Selectman Croteau – Yes

440
441 (5-0-0) The motion carried.

442
443 It was noted that when the Board returned, after the non-public session, the Board would not take
444 any other action publicly, except to seal the minutes of the non-public session and to adjourn the
445 meeting. The Board entered a non-public session at approximately 8:08 pm.

446
447
448 **ADJOURNMENT**

449
450 Respectfully submitted,
451
452 Makayla Clougherty
453 Recording Secretary