

ROXBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2022
7:00PM – 8:36PM
THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AT COMMUNITY HALL

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Chair Jon Guiffre and Road Commissioner Dave McShane
STAFF PARTICIPATING: Selectboard Assistant Tammy Legacy
PUBLIC: Wendy Cashman, Jack Cashman, Tom Frazier, Michelle Acciavatti, Sean Cummings & Children

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.
3. Re-Organization of the Board – Dave moved to appoint Jon Guiffre as Chairman of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Shane Ryan will stay as Vice-Chair and Dave McShane will continue as Road Commissioner.
4. Dave requested Michelle Acciavatti be moved to the top of the agenda.

Michelle Acciavatti discussed with the Board her Act 250 Permit. Michelle needs a letter from the Board and the Local Board of Health stating that they have no objections with the proposed natural burial cemetery. The Act 250 Permit is in the name of Vermont Natural Burial.

Tom Frazier stated he has several issues which he has previously stated to the Board. Some of Tom's concerns are the number of lots, square footage and stream on the property. Tom would like to know how many burials are anticipated on the property. Michelle stated a half of an acre would be reserved for the funeral home, five acres would be for personal use and the rest would be for the burial ground. Burials must be 3 ½ feet from the surface. The burial ground is incorporated as a non-profit and the Dissolution Plan is not finalized. Tom stated that eventually the cemetery will run out of land for burials. Tom is also concerned with the perpetual care fund. Michelle stated that 20% of cost for each lot goes into a perpetual care fund and that State Statutes rules the process. Tom wanted to make sure there is money in the fund if the Town ends up taking over the cemetery if the non-profit no longer exists. Tom would like the Board to get an attorney to look into the Town's interest and maybe the non-profit should get a million-dollar insurance policy.

Jack Cashman, Cemetery Commissioner, stated he thinks this is a noble project but the Roxbury Cemetery Commission has some concerns. Jack has reviewed the Act 250 Permit. Jack thinks it would be nice to have a document stating that Michelle will be a good neighbor to the Orcutt Cemetery to formalize the commitment. Jack has some issues with pet burials. He does not think there are any statutes allowing for pets to be buried with human remains. Michelle stated that interpretation does not rule out pets to be buried in cemeteries. They want to make it available to people. Jack requested pet burials to be looked into so that it is clear. Jack is also concerned with financial responsibility to the Town. Jack feels there needs to be a backup if the non-profit cemetery isn't successful.

There was a discussion on the depth of burials. There were concerns that if trees were to fall down, bodies could be exposed. There was a discussion on process of burying. Michelle stated there would be minimal damage, surface roots are important, hand digging would be done. Michelle expects 200 to 300 burials. Jack stated you can only use the interest on perpetual care funds. Decomposition was discussed. No headstones would be allowed, surface markers and tree hanging markers were allowed. Graves will eventually go back to nature.

Locations of graves which will be written on the burial transit permits will be recorded at the Town Office. GPS is very accurate. Small walking trails for people to use so people can visit the graves. Burials will take place in the winter.

Wendy Cashman, Cemetery Commissioner, stated she believes there had been a stone wall at the Orcutt Cemetery. In the 1930s she believes it was stolen. 3 feet by 25 feet wall is estimated to cost \$5,500. Wendy also mentioned topsoil is needed at the Orcutt Cemetery and the Village Cemetery.

Jon Guiffre stated the Board will look into this more due to the concerns of the public. Tom suggested the voters vote on this matter. Dave moved to send this to the Town Attorney for clarification on what has been brought up. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Jon stated he will recuse himself from voting on this due to a conflict in the project. This topic will be put on the next agenda.

4. Road Commissioner's Report

- a) Roads are in good shape.
- b) Equipment is good.
- c) The Board discussed the Annual Highway Mileage Certificate. The Board signed the certificate.

6. Financial Report

- a) The orders were reviewed. Dave moved to approve the orders. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes.
- b) The Town received \$14,020.00. These funds were reimbursement for the Municipal Grant-In-Aid Program for West Hill Project. The Town received \$1,799.79 for the Highway Supplement from the State.

7. Unfinished Business

- a) No update on Emerald Ash Borer
- b) Tammy will contact Clare St. John regarding the ARPA funds. Reports are due April 1st.
- c) The Park Committee would like to know if the road crew can remove the tree in the new park. The Board agreed to have the road crew remove the tree but are not certain when they will be able to do it. Professor Adam Sevi and some of his students are volunteering to review the park plan and do additional research on the meandering pathway, pads for the installations, drainage and whole host of other issues and come up with a plan to present to the Roxbury Park Development Committee.
- d) Dave moved to have CVRPC review and move forward to the newly adopted Town Plan. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Tammy will send letter to CVRPC.

8. New Business

- a) The Board discussed the newly adopted Open Meeting Law. Remote meetings are now allowed without having to have an in person meeting too. Dave suggested the Board keep having their meetings in person. Jon mentioned using zoom for the informational meeting. Jon will get more information.
- b) The tax sale will be on January 27. There are two properties that will be auctioned off. Dave moved if properties do not sell at tax sale, the Town should bid the minimum amount. The motion was seconded and passed with all ayes. Jon will attend the tax sale.

9. Other Business

- a) Jack mentioned that someone had plowed the snow in the village cemetery. Dave responded that signs have been put up blocking the roads.

10. Approval of minutes – Dave suggested the Board wait until the next meeting to approve the minutes.

11. Executive Session – Dave moved to go into executive session with an invitation to Tammy Legacy to join them to discuss a legal matter. The motion was seconded and passed 2 to 0. The Board entered executive session at 8:16 p.m. The Board exited executive session at 8:36 p.m.

No action taken.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Tammy Legacy, Selectboard Assistant
Approved on February 7, 2022