

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
TOWN OF RYEGATE
PO BOX 332
RYEGATE, VERMONT 05042**

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

October 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Paul Keenan. Other members present: Andrew Smith and Claudette Sortino. Also present: Alison Low, NVDA, Richard Colby, Linda Libuda, Richard Fraser, William Hetu, Carolyn Adams, Dan LaCoss, Mr. & Mrs. Cesari, Cheryl Slayton, Bertha Stevens, Donald Leavitt, Judy Gandin, William MacDonald, Marsha Nelson.

The minutes of the October 10, 2016 Meeting were read and approved with one addition. Andy moved adopting the minutes after adding the following: Nelson met with Patrick Ross for ideas and wondered about using *an old truck scale platform* from a town in New Hampshire to replace it. Claudette seconded the motion with the change and the motion carried. The October 14th Special Meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Andy seconded by Claudette that carried. The Clerk asked to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Rick Colby and the Cemetery Commissioners re: the Paton Place, 2) Rick Colby and Alison Low re: the Town Plan and 3) a dog named Bella in South Ryegate. Claudette asked to speak on her findings on the Vershire Junkyard experience.

The Cesaris were present to discuss Town Highway 54 and ask what the Select Board had found out about it. Cesari feels the Board changed its mind on the mileage to the boundary with Newbury and wonders why. Andy feels more research is necessary and wants to interview people who remember the road well. The Board will meet at the base of Farquharson Drive Monday, October 31, 2016 at 2:00 PM.

Rick Colby, Judy Gandin and Dan LaCoss from the Cemetery Commission were present, as requested by the Select Board, to discuss the purchase of the Paton Property in South Ryegate, and from which Cemetery funds to take the money. A discussion followed on the transaction with several questions asked by interested landowners and neighbors in South Ryegate as well as the Commissioners. It was asked if the cemetery money in the Town Report has any historical designation on how to be used. It was mentioned that Perpetual Care has gone by the wayside as the Town has taken over the Cemeteries and its care. Dan LaCoss said questions were raised at the Commissioners Meeting about the lot between the Cemetery and the former Paton Lot. Dan asked if purchase of that lot had been looked into. Andy said the purchase of the Paton Lot only took place last week and it had been doubtful it would go through. He stated the purchase price includes the cost of cleaning up the lot and the surrounding land and the Town will have it cleaned up. The Town can then talk to the property owner who owns the

lot between and see if she is interested in selling that little piece of land. It was stated that the \$34,000 is from cemetery funds that are purchasing the Paton Lot and cleaning up the lot and surrounding land of debris (including cars and a buried large animal). Dan stated his question is on future costs. There is not a need to put in a road as it is a deeded right of way to the property. The Board never looked any further than purchasing and clean up of both Paton's land and the neighbor's property between the Cemetery and the lot. The possible purchase of the neighboring land is in the future. The neighboring landowner, Carolyn Adams, then spoke up and said she might have a Cause of Action against the Town as she had planned to have a Cause of Action against the Patons. She is happy to hear the Town is willing to clean up her land. Patons damaged her land and she may have to have a Cause of Action against the Town as new owners. Paul Keenan again said the Town is willing to clean up your land. Don Leavitt spoke for the neighbors thanking the Select Board for taking care of the situation in such a positive way. They felt grateful to think the Board had come to their rescue. Bertha Stevens thanked the Board very graciously. A round of applause was heard from the neighbors.

Rick Colby and Alison Low were present to say the Town Plan will expire in April and needs to be renewed for eight years. The Zoning By-Laws can't be renewed until the Town Plan is. A Municipal Planning Grant is available to take care of the expense of updating the Plan. The application is due October 31st. Once the grant is awarded the Zoning Board is free to work with any group to renew the Plan. NVDA will write the short grant necessary but the Town needs to appoint an Authorizing Official and a Contact person. The Board appointed Claudette Sortino as the Authorizing Official and Marsha Nelson as the Contact. The Board gave their approval to move ahead with the application for the Municipal Planning Grant to update the Town Plan. Andy moved the above and Paul seconded it and it carried. Rick will build the new ramp on the west side of the Town Hall by the General Election.

Treasurer's Report: The Board viewed bills and signed orders and looked at the Road Crew time cards. The Treasurer passed out Cash Flow with Changes and Balance Sheets through September, 2016. There was discussion on what Cemetery Funds to use for the Paton transaction. Paul said leave the Hall funds alone as that is a different cemetery. The Cemetery Commission didn't target any certain funds. Cheryl needs to come up with \$34,000 now.

There was a complaint about a dog, Bella, in South Ryegate, who is often loose and on other people's properties. She has been killing rabbits and the Select Board warned she could be shot if found on someone's property killing livestock. The Sheriff will be called on October 25th to check out the situation.

Jo Guertin sent a letter retiring as the Town Animal Control Officer as of December 31, 2016. The Board suggested advertising for a new one on the website.

There was no Public Comment. Andy moved adjournment at 8:50 PM Claudette seconded the motion and it carried.

-----Marsha Nelson, Clerk