

DRAFT
ANNUAL TOWN OF ROXBURY MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2025

The meeting started at 10:15 a.m. Moderator Jackie Frazier invited everyone to the meeting. Jackie explained Roberts Rules of Order to those in attendance. At this time, at this time Jackie stated if there were no objections, she would allow Jay Hooper to speak; there were no objections. Roxbury's Representative Jay Hooper spoke about what is happening at the State House and answered questions.

Art. 1. To elect the following officers of the Town. (Australian Ballot)

Town Moderator for a term of one year
Town Clerk for a term of one year
Town Treasurer for a term of one year
Selectperson for a term of three years
Selectperson for a term of two years
Selectperson for two years, remainder of a three-year term
Lister for a term of three years
Auditor for a term of three years
Library Trustee for a term of three years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year
Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years
Cemetery Commissioner for one year, remainder of a three-year term
First Constable for a term of one year
Second Constable for a term of one year

Art. 2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Courtney Jenkins moved the questions, Ed Carney seconded. The Roxbury Selectboard spoke. Rene Bouchard, chair of the Selectboard, thanked everyone for coming out today. He mentioned the Board had expanded to five members and then introduced them. Rene spoke about the Roxbury Village School articles, Reserve Funds, Library repairs, solar panels, the MERP Grant, the Ladd Road and Tenney Road bridges, Green-Up Day, the adoption of the LHMP (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) and water issues in the village. Rene thanked Dave McShane for all his years of service to the Town, Tammy Legacy and Britney Pombar for all they do, the road crew for all their work and all the volunteers. Claire Chomentowski thanked Lucinda Sullivan. It was noted that things are happening in Town.

The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 3. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in four (4) equal installments on August 15, 2025, November 14, 2025, February 13, 2026 and May 8, 2026, with interest of one-half percent (0.5%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Edgar Mesquita moved the question, Cyrus Collins seconded. There was no discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 4. Should the Town of Roxbury, pursuant to the terms of the Montpelier Roxbury Unified Union School District Article of Agreement, accept the conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property for the sum of \$1? (Advisory, Non-binding article) Caroline Edlund moved the article, Rian (Juniper) Bovard Johns

seconded. RVS Committee Member Tom Frazier thanked the members of the committee. Tom would like to rent out most of the building but keep some space for the Bridges. People in attendance supported buying back the school. Hannah Bryant proposed entering into an agreement to take over at the end of the 2025/2026 school year. The Bridges program, security for school, lining up tenants and PCB testing were discussed. Ben Pincus moved to purchase for \$1 and enter into a purchase and sale agreement with date of closure June 30, 2026. Karen Tassinari seconded. Rene spoke about contingency restrictions. Selectman Jeremy Reed stated there are no funds available for testing from the State. More discussion on PCB testing and remediation. An article is before the voters, Should the Town of Roxbury, pursuant to the terms of the Montpelier Roxbury Unified Union School District Article of Agreement, accept the conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property for the sum of \$1 in June of 2026? More discussion. Don Randall called the question. The amendment failed with a show of hands. The original article is before the voters: Should the Town of Roxbury, pursuant to the terms of the Montpelier Roxbury Unified Union School District Article of Agreement, accept the conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property for the sum of \$1? The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 5. If the Town of Roxbury accepts conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property, should the Town of Roxbury:

- a) Sell the Roxbury Village School property while retaining a portion for the Town's use;
- b) Consolidate municipal functions at the Roxbury Village School property and sell or lease other Town buildings that may become unused or vacant as a result, such as the Library, Community Hall, or Town Office; or
- c) Lease some or all of the Roxbury Village School property to one or more tenants?
(Advisory, Non-binding article)

Don Randall moved the article, Edgar Mesquita seconded. Don Randall requested paper ballot. There was a lot of discussion on the non-binding article. Dave Santi moved to amend by adding d) to keep school opened for Roxbury kids. Don Randall seconded the amendment. The amended article is before the voters:

If the Town of Roxbury accepts conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property, should the Town of Roxbury:

- a) Sell the Roxbury Village School property while retaining a portion for the Town's use;
- b) Consolidate municipal functions at the Roxbury Village School property and sell or lease other Town buildings that may become unused or vacant as a result, such as the Library, Community Hall, or Town Office; or
- c) Lease some or all of the Roxbury Village School property to one or more tenants?

(Advisory, Non-binding article)

d) Keep school opened for Roxbury kids

The amendment failed with a couple of ayes and many nos. Jerry D'Amico called the question. There were lots of ayes to call the question. The original article is before the voters. Don Randall asked for paper ballot which passed with enough votes. Jackie read the article.

If the Town of Roxbury accepts conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property, should the Town of Roxbury:

- a) Sell the Roxbury Village School property while retaining a portion for the Town's use;
- b) Consolidate municipal functions at the Roxbury Village School property and sell or lease other Town buildings that may become unused or vacant as a result, such as the Library, Community Hall, or Town Office; or
- c) Lease some or all of the Roxbury Village School property to one or more tenants?
(Advisory, Non-binding article)

The results are: A – 1, B – 17, C – 56.

At this time, the meeting paused for lunch at noon. It reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Art. 6. If the Town of Roxbury accepts conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property, shall the Town appropriate \$75,000.00 for estimated property-related expenses with any excess to be directed to the Municipal Building Repair Fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Edgar Mesquita moved the question, Heidi Albright seconded. Tom Frazier made a motion to add less any rental income. Hillary Newton seconded. The amendment is before the voters.

If the Town of Roxbury accepts conveyance of the Roxbury Village School property, shall the Town appropriate \$75,000.00 less any rental income for estimated property-related expenses with any excess to be directed to the Municipal Building Repair Fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The amendment passed with many ayes and a couple of nos. The amended article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 7. Will the voters approve the sum of \$686,726.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Andre Souigny moved the article, Don Randall seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 8. Will the voters approve the sum of \$263,871.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Judy Lusk moved the article, Cyrus Collins seconded. Dave Santi moved to amend the article to lower the amount to \$200,871.00. There was no second. The original article is before the voters.

Will the voters approve the sum of \$263,871.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. The article passed with lots of ayes and one no.

- Art. 9. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804, establish a reserve fund to be called the Bridge Reserve Fund for future bridge repair and re-decking projects? Ed Carney moved the article, Don Randall seconded. There was some discussion on reserve funds. The Selectboard feels this would make budgeting easier. The article is before the voters and passed with many ayes and a couple of nos.
- Art. 10. Pending approval of Article 9, will the voters of the Town of Roxbury approve moving the sum of \$4,000.00 from the Town Surplus into the Bridge Reserve Fund? Liva Coe moved the article, Edgar Mesquita seconded. There was discussion on reserve funds and the Selectboard explained the purpose of article. Discussion on having bond votes instead of having reserve funds. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and a couple of nos.
- Art. 11. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804, establish a reserve fund to be called the Guardrail Reserve Fund for future guardrail repair projects? Lucinda Sullivan moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded. Discussion on having people who damage guardrails pay for repairing them. Discussion on article. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and couple of nos.
- Art. 12. Pending approval of Article 11, will the voters of the Town of Roxbury approve moving the sum of \$3,500.00 from the Town Surplus into the Guardrail Reserve Fund? Louis Stamatelos moved the article, Ed Carney seconded. The article passed with many ayes and a couple of nos.
- Art. 13. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury approve moving the sum of \$50,000.00 from the Town Surplus into the Highways Equipment Fund? The article was moved by Caroline Edlund and seconded by Tom Frazier. There was discussion on the article. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and a couple of nos.
- Art. 14. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804, establish a reserve fund to be called the Town Garage Reserve Fund for future repair and/or replacement projects? Cyrus Collins moved the article and Tom Frazier seconded. The article passed with many ayes and a couple of nos.
- Art. 15. Pending approval of Article 14, will the voters of the Town of Roxbury approve moving the sum of \$100,000.00 from the General Fund into the Town Garage Reserve Fund? Wendy Cashman moved the article and Don Randall seconded. There was a discussion on the shape of the town garage building. There was a discussion on the cost to replace the garage and location. Jeremy Reed, a member of the Town Garage Committee, stated the committee is looking at options for site, design, construction and could take years. The garage was built around 1973. After further discussion, Jeremy Reed called the

question. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and two nos.

- Art. 16. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury approve moving the sum of \$5,015.67 from the General Fund into the Roxbury Park Reserve Fund? Rachel Field moved the article, Heidi Albright seconded. These funds are for the village park. The funds are ARPA funds that were not spent and may be used on the walk way in the park. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and a few nos.
- Art. 17. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804, establish a reserve fund to be called the Beaver Management Reserve Fund for future beaver management and mitigation projects? Jay Gilman moved the article, Ed Carney seconded. There was a discussion on beaver management and water in the village. Rene Bouchard gave a history of the project. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and a couple of nos.
- Art. 18. Pending approval of Article 17, will the voters of the Town of Roxbury approve moving any excess in the budgeted Beaver Management Fund line item into the Beaver Management Reserve Fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year on June 30th, 2025? Tom Frazier moved the article, Bob Ketchel seconded. No discussion. The article passed with many ayes and one no.
- Art. 19. Will the voters approve the sum of \$33,660.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The article was moved by Edgar Mesquita and seconded by Lucinda Sullivan. There was a discussion on where the excess funds go. Discussion on the grant to improve the library facility. Ryan Zajac, Library Director, talked about the \$30,000 grant. The funds can be used on an existing or future library building and there is no time line to spend. At this time, the Library has no specific plan for the funds. Ryan also mentioned the annual raffle and thanked the Library Trustees. Heidi Albright acknowledged Ryan Zajac, Caityln Santi and Lisa Mercurio. The Library has been working on a Strategic Plan. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 20. Will the voters approve the sum of \$650.00 for the Roxbury Free Library Computer Capital Reserve Fund? Rachel Field moved the article and Hannah Bryant seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 21. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Louis Stamatelos moved the article and Hannah Zajac seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 22. Will the voters approve the sum of \$17,056.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's operating expenses, with any excess to be directed to the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's equipment fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Lisa Huttinger moved the article and Louis Stamatelos seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 23. Shall the Town of Roxbury vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 for the support of Roxbury Roots Monthly Free Community Suppers? Roxbury

Roots strengthens community bonds, promotes local food access, and builds resilience through shared meals. Caroline Edlund moved the article and Rian (Juniper) Bovard Johns seconded. Hannah Bryant spoke about how the monthly dinners having given her a way to get to know the community. Hannah proposed to increase to \$2,000.00 and mentioned that Roots provided the today's lunch. The amendment was seconded. Discussion on Roots and the people who provide the meals sometimes paying out of their own pocket. The amended article is before the voters.

Shall the Town of Roxbury vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the support of Roxbury Roots Monthly Free Community Suppers? The amendment passed with many ayes and one no. The amended article is before the voters.

Shall the Town of Roxbury vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 for the support of Roxbury Roots Monthly Free Community Suppers? The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 24. Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4th of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Edgar Mesquita moved the article, Liva Coe seconded. Discussion on the funds. An amendment was offered to have any excess funds go to the Roxbury Roots Supper. The amendment was before the voters:

Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4th of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to Roxbury Roots Community Supper at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The amendment passed with many ayes and one no. The article is before the voters:

Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4th of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Roxbury Roots Community Supper at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The article passed.

Art. 25. Will the voters appropriate \$7,539.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	\$1,700.00
Roxbury Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$900.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$600.00
Capstone Community Action, Inc	\$500.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$500.00
Vt Assoc. for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$500.00
Green Mountain Transit	\$429.00
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$300.00
People's Health & Wellness Clinic	\$300.00
Circle (f.k.a. Battered Women's Services)	\$250.00
Mosaic (f.k.a. Sexual Assault Crisis)	\$250.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$200.00
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$110.00

Andre Souigny moved the article and Courtney Jenkins seconded. Rich Smith stated he supports all the organizations but one stands out and serves a lot of people. Rich moved to amend the article to increase the Roxbury Food Shelf to \$1,500. Carl Ellis seconded the amendment. The amendment was before the voters increasing the Roxbury Food Shelf to \$1,500. The amendment passed. The amended article is before the voters:

Will the voters appropriate \$8,039.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	\$1,700.00
Roxbury Food Shelf	\$1,500.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$900.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$600.00
Capstone Community Action, Inc	\$500.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$500.00
Vt Assoc. for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$500.00
Green Mountain Transit	\$429.00
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$300.00
People's Health & Wellness Clinic	\$300.00
Circle (f.k.a. Battered Women's Services)	\$250.00
Mosaic (f.k.a. Sexual Assault Crisis)	\$250.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$200.00
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$110.00

After brief discussion about Green Mountain Transit, the article passed with all ayes.

Art. 26. To transact any other proper business to be brought before said meeting. Tom Frazier moved the article and Lucinda Sullivan seconded.

At this time members of the community spoke. Tom Frazier mentioned that Randy Whitney is putting the store up for sale. There was a round of applause for Randy Whitney. Ben Pincus thanked the Roxbury Free Library and mentioned the photos on display taken by his dad, Ed Pincus. The Community Visit is on March 24th which is also the Roxbury Crafters barn quilting weekend. Roxbury Roots will supply lunch for both days of the crafter's event. Rich Smith praised Jackie Frazier; she was in the first kindergarten class held in the Town Hall. Heather Holter mentioned the Community Visits. All are welcome to come. Jackie Frazier thanked the Selectboard and Tammy Legacy and Britney Pombar.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Tammy Legacy
Town Clerk