

Minutes from the Roxbury Selectmen's meeting Jan. 19, 2016

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis and Jim Rousmaniere; former Selectman Chip Drogue; Treasurer David Jewett; Police Chief Rob O'Connor

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. Minutes from the meeting of Jan. 11 were read and approved.

The meeting opened with a public hearing on proposed revisions to the Town's Special Events Policy. *(Revisions to the existing Special Events Policy can be made by the Selectmen without voter approval, and therefore a formal public hearing was not required. Still, the date of the hearing was posted by Selectmen in advance, and the hearing was conducted as a discretionary public listening session; therefore the minutes of that hearing are included in the minutes of the Selectmen's regular weekly meeting.)* The hearing was called to order by Selectman Gerry Davis at 7:05 p.m. in the main part of the Town Hall; Selectman Jim Rousmaniere also attended as did two members of the public – a town resident who identified herself as a neighbor of the Granite Gorge ski area and also Fred Baybutt representing Granite Gorge. The neighbor asked about a paragraph in the proposed revised policy (“Disturbing the Peace”) that stipulates that vehicular noise that is otherwise subject to state regulation “shall not cause unreasonable inconvenience to neighbors.” She asked how the adjective “unreasonable” could be defined; Selectman Rousmaniere responded that the appropriate application of the term relies on sound judgment, and the Selectmen would use their best judgment in determining whether a particular noise level unreasonably inconvenienced neighbors. In answer to a question, the resident said that she would not recommend a reference to any specific noise threshold in the policy, such as decibel levels, and she said that she preferred to leave it to the Selectmen to be the judges. Baybutt was asked for his views on the matter and he replied that he was satisfied with the language as it was proposed, and he too preferred not to see any reference to specific noise levels in the policy. The neighbor said that she had no other comments regarding the proposed policy. When asked by the Selectmen whether he had any other comments on the proposed policy, Baybutt said he did not. The Selectmen present said that they would take under advisement a matter involving insurance requirements in the proposed policy that had been previously raised by the Town's lawyer before considering implementing any changes to existing policy. The public session of the hearing was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

In other business, the Selectmen took note of receiving a copy of a traffic security contract related to a planned Feb. 13, 2016 hillclimb event at Granite Gorge.

The Selectmen and former Selectman Drogue informally discussed the layout of the main hall during elections, in particular the upcoming Feb. 9 Presidential Primary, since the layout of tables and voting booths must accommodate use of the new public bathroom on the main floor.

Chief O'Connor presented a document spelling out proposed changes for the 2016 police budget.

Former Selectman Drogue assisted Selectmen Davis and Rousmaniere in completing a proposed 2016 operating budget. It was agreed that Selectman Rousmaniere will input the budget data in the Department of Revenue Administration software for review at the next Selectmen's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

(Minutes by Selectman Rousmaniere)