

Minutes from the Roxbury Selectmen's meeting July 18, 2016

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett; Trustees of Trust Funds chairman Virginia Shepardson; a town resident

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. Minutes from the meeting of July 11 were approved.

The selectmen discussed the August 5 bill Eversource bill for Town Hall that at \$114.91 seemed a bit high for a building that is occupied so little. (Subsequent research by Selectman Rousmaniere established that roughly \$23 of the bill was for electrical services for the garage, and the remaining was for power to Town Hall, which is billed at the commercial rate. Melissa _____ at Eversource reported that a new meter was installed in May of 2015; she also advised that the billing reflects a recent rate increase.)

A town resident expressed concerns about possible future erosion related to planned logging on an uphill neighbor's property; the resident explained that he was unsure of the location of the boundary line between the two properties. He asked whether the selectmen could somehow address his concerns about possible erosion. The selectmen advised him to discuss his concerns with the adjacent property owner.

Virginia Shepardson was asked about the accessibility of funds that are held in various trust fund accounts, principally a fund for use in the upper cemetery that was established in 1997 and that contains \$1,868. She reported that she did not have the appropriate trust fund document at the ready to establish whether principle or interest only can be drawn from the account. No such document could be found in the selectmen's office. It was agreed that the selectmen would examine the town archives that are kept at 350 Marlboro Street in Keene. The selectmen are aware of broken headstones and are considering how or whether to make repairs.

Selectman Rousmaniere reported that the Pathways of Keene group had approached the town to explore whether the former rail lines that have been converted to trails in Keene might be extended into Roxbury. It was reported that, unlike the situation in Keene, former rail lines in Roxbury do not continue to exist as rights-of-way; the former rail line properties and rights are now owned by private parties. The findings will be reported to the Pathways people.

It was reported that a revised draft of a proposed agreement between Keene and Roxbury regarding Keene's use of Roxbury police to periodically patrol the city's watershed land in Roxbury had been sent to Donna Hanscom of the Keene Public Works Department.

Treasurer Jewett reported that he is continuing to address questions by the state Department of Revenue administration regarding filing of budget data with the state.

The Selectmen addressed the subject of whether building permits should be required of property owners who install solar equipment, either on rooftops or on standalone arrays. It was learned via an informal survey of local towns that all those towns require such building permits. There was

some word that Roxbury had long ago required a building permit for one rooftop installation, but then it was also noted that one town property owner recently installed a rooftop solar set-up without a permit being applied for. The Selectmen noted that the published schedule of fees for documents and related town services did not include a line for solar building permits. Selectman O'Brien offered to redesign the schedule of fees, which then will be posted on the town web site. The selectmen voted to include a solar building permit fee of \$40 on the list.

It was further agreed by the selectmen that one current item on the building permit schedule – specifically building permits for structures below the measurements of 10x10 feet – would be eliminated. The vote in favor of removing that requirement was 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed the proposed salt-shed construction project that town meeting voters have approved and reserved funds for. The project has also been the subject of recent design discussions with David Stulsatz, a native of the town who has voluntarily provided architectural guidance. The Selectmen voted to schedule construction for 2017 and meanwhile firm up the design specifications for the project.

There was a short discussion regarding the issuance and compilation of property tax inventories. The discussion was prompted by the receipt of an order form from the state for copies of inventory documents for use in 2017. There has been some thought by the selectmen to not issuing the forms each year. The selectmen will survey local towns to see what practices they follow.

Selectman Davis prepared the manifest of bills to be paid; the manifest was signed by the selectmen.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

(Minutes approved by selectmen:

Gerry Davis

Tim O'Brien

Jim Rousmaniere