

Minutes from the Roxbury Selectmen's meeting July 5, 2016

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Robert Reed, property owner.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. Minutes from the meeting of June 27 were approved.

Tim O'Brien reported that all MS-232 filings and related documents requested by the Department of Revenue Administration had been completed and sent.

Selectman O'Brien also reported that he had installed anti-virus protection on all town computers,

It was reported that Avitar had conducted a walk-through of Granite Gorge property, as requested by Granite Gorge, and that Avitar had concluded that the assessed value of the properties should be slightly increased.

The Selectmen discussed various matters relating to the two town cemeteries, including how or whether to address broken headstones. Selectman O'Brien reported that Keene Monument has indicated that some kinds of repairs could be quite costly. The selectmen also briefly discussed the pricing of internment services, among other matters. The general discussion led to thoughts that a fair number of cemetery-related topics could benefit from updating and clarification leading to possible action at a future Town Meeting. Among preliminary steps it was agreed that the head trustee of trust funds will be asked to provide information about the dollar sum and appropriate purposes of cemetery trust funds; it was further agreed that citizen Barbara Neylan will be approached regarding information she might have in hand regarding descendants of cemetery occupants, the thinking being that at least some of them might take an interest in helping with the repair of broken headstones.

Prompted by a resident's recent request regarding assessed valuation abatements related to the installation of solar-energy devices, the selectmen discussed a Town Meeting decision made in 2009 that provided for the following: That the tax base of individual properties could be reduced by up to \$10,000 via abatements related to the installation of solar equipment provided that the town's advisor on assessment matters – currently Avitar – agrees that such installation increased the assessed value of said property by at least \$10,000. The selectmen noted that the town does not currently require building permits for the installation of solar equipment. Selectman Rousmaniere offered to call the NH Municipal Association to ask what is the practice regarding solar-related building permits and property assessment practices in other towns in the state.

It was noted that TruGreen, which is under contract to provide fertilizer services to the town park, has agreed to provide organic-only treatments for the same price (\$40 per visit) as it has charged for chemical treatments.

The Selectmen discussed correspondence from Lee-Ann Urquhart of the Department of Revenue Administration regarding MS-535 filings. Selectman Rousmaniere agreed to forward the correspondence to Treasurer David Jewett.

Regarding the proposed administrative agreement between the town of Roxbury and the city of Keene related to police patrolling of watershed lands, it was noted that town attorney Tom Hanna had not yet offered his thoughts on the language of the proposed agreement.

The selectmen had an extended discussion regarding correspondence from Reagan Bissonnette of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests to the effect that the society believes that there is no Class VI road passing across land over which it has control; communications related to his topic going back at least to 2003 were discussed. It was agreed that the Society will be invited to make a presentation of its concerns to the selectman at the meeting of July 18.

Letters of thanks to the local outlets of Home Depot and Sherwin Williams for donations of materials for town-related projects were signed by the selectmen.

A date for the volunteer painting of town hall has been set: it is Saturday, July 16, beginning at 8 a.m.

It was noted that work on the kitchen upgrade project in town hall has begun.

Robert Reed (rreed0968@yaho.com), a Connecticut resident with ties to family property in town (property #21 on Map 403), inquired about possible future building possibilities on the land. Discussion partly concerned the classification of roads that provide access to the property. The selectmen established that both roads appear to be Class VI roads; hence, any subsequent request regarding building must be addressed to the town Zoning Board.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Approved by the selectmen.