

Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting June 12, 2017

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett; John Baybutt representing Granite Gorge; Road Agent Ken Buffum; Don Lucier and Brett Rusnock representing the public works department of the City of Keene; citizens Barbara Neylan, Gale Russell and Fred White.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. Minutes from the meeting of June 5 were approved.

Selectman O'Brien reported that he had been in touch recently with a representative of the NH Department of Transportation regarding planned improvements to a stretch of Route 9 that passes by the Granite Gorge property in town. The representative advised that the state has been discussing with Granite Gorge a purchase of an easement on part of Granite Gorge property to help accommodate the project; the contemplated purchase price was said to be in the vicinity of \$1,800. The DOT representative asked that the Selectmen grant a partial release from a tax lien relative to the property. The selectmen agreed that, before taking any action on the request, they will approach the legal department of the Local Government Center to inform themselves about factors involving the granting of partial releases on tax liens.

Separately, John Baybutt informed the selectmen that Granite Gorge is committed becoming current on its property tax payments. He presented a document that spelled out a plan to pay down Granite Gorge's property tax obligations; the selectmen asked that he amend the document to say that, if and when Granite Gorge receives a payment from DOT for an easement, the payment be directly to put to use paying down past unpaid property taxes. Baybutt agreed to the provision and hand-wrote that condition on the document, a copy of which was inserted in the Granite Gorge file in the selectmen's office.

At 7:15 pm the selectmen shifted their meeting venue to the main hall to hear a presentation by city of Keene Public Works Officials Don Lucier and Brett Rusnock regarding the city's planned work relative to Babbidge Dam.

According to the presentation, the purpose of the dam upgrade is to anticipate hard storms and flooding events that could lead to an overtopping of the dam by as much as 4 feet of water. As part of the construction job, the dam's height will remain unchanged, but a spillway for overtopping will be installed at roughly the middle of the width of the structure; an auxiliary spillway will also be added to the north side of the dam. The west side of the dam will be armored with concrete bricks that allow some vegetation to poke through; the vegetation will be kept mowed, according Lucier. Among other steps, the original brick gatehouse at the top of the dam will likely be replaced with a new structure of the same size, and there might be some instances where security fencing will be installed.

Lucier also described anticipated work at the intersection of Middletown Road and the Dakin Road, which serves as the service road access to the dam. Lucier explained that early public impressions that the intersection of the two roads will be substantially redesigned are no longer

valid. He said that some soil and gravel might be used to build up the Dakin Road at the point where it connects with Middletown Road and that a temporary surface support structure will be used to strengthen the road at that point. Lucier said that the city's concern at the point of intersection is to assure that truck drivers who are coming on to Middletown Road from the Dakin Road have a clear line of sight both north and south on Middletown Road. He said that some vegetation, including no more than 8 trees, would likely be trimmed or removed as part of the process. "There will be no clear-cutting," he said.

Gale Russell suggested that the city consider hiring a flag man to attend to vehicle safety at the intersection. Lucier said that the costs associated with such a move could be excessive, but he said nevertheless that he will look into the matter.

Barbara Neylan inquired about the existing gate across the Dakin Road. She said that she understands that the city wants to keep motorized vehicles away from its drinking water source in its watershed streams and reservoirs, but she said that the gate, by appearing to keep out horseback riders and other people, contradicts the spirit of an understanding that she recalled when the gate was installed. She explained that the Dakin Road is a town road. She asked that the city revisit the referenced agreement and get back to her.

In answer to questions, Lucier said that the project will involve approximately 200 truck visits to the site; truck traffic will occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and work on the project will occur on weekdays. Actual physical work on the dam and access road is scheduled to begin mid-July and will be completed in October. On related matters, Lucier said that the former water treatment building on Middletown Road will be removed at some point. Also, he said that same-safety improvements at Woodward Pond are now in the discussion stage.

The discussion regarding the Babbidge Dam project concluded at 8:10 p.m. The selectmen thanked Messrs. Lucier and Rusnock for their presentation and then returned to the selectmen's office for further business.

The selectmen discussed a number of steps spelled out by the NH Department of Revenue Administration concerning certain formalities related to town business. The selectmen agreed that two meetings/hearings will be conducted one after the other on June 26, beginning at 7:30 p.m.; the purposes of the meetings will be to: (a) See if the town will vote to ratify the results of the March 15th annual meeting even though the posting requirements were not met (RSA 31:5-b), and (b) Legalize, ratify and confirm the results of the annual meeting that was delayed one day due to a storm (Chapter 20:6, Laws of 2017). Public notice of the meetings will be made on the town's web site, in town minutes on the Town Hall bulletin board and in an advertisement in The Keene Sentinel.

It was noted that Road agent Buffum filed a map showing all culverts in town; the selectmen agreed to take the map to the Southwest Region Planning Commission, staff members of which have begun a culvert inventory project in town.

It was noted that the Town of Nelson issued an invitation to join in a celebration of that neighboring town's 250th birthday on July 8.

On separate matter involving Granite Gorge, the selectmen decided not to act on a special permit application for an event at Granite Gorge scheduled for the facility later in the month. It was agreed that action on the application is dependent on Granite Gorge completing its response to a previously noted fire safety inspection report.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by the selectmen