

Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Oct. 23, 2017

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Fred Baybutt of Granite Gorge, Police Chief Rob O'Connor, Emergency Operations Manager Chip Drogue, Keene Assistant Public Works Director Donna Hanscom, Keene Water Treatment Facility Manager Ben Crowder, citizens Leith Robidoux, Scott Arlen

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Fred Baybutt of Granite Gorge presented a permit application for a hill-climb on Oct. 28; he apologized for late filing of the application. He briefly discussed a planned approach to the Roxbury Zoning Board regarding his effort to expand the list of allowable activities to include such activities as hill-climbs. The Selectmen ultimately approved the application following a review by Police Chief O'Connor; the approval was issued with the formal statement that the Selectmen will consider no further special permit applications by Granite Gorge until its representatives have ironed things out with the Zoning Board.

Responding to an offer by the Southwest Region Planning Commission, the selectmen agreed to acquire an updated Planning and Land Use Manual.

Separately, the selectmen agreed to acquire an updated copy of "Hard Road To Travel" – a compendium of road-related laws published by the N.H. Municipal Association.

Donna Hanscom and Ben Crowder of the city of Keene discussed the new agreement that entails patrolling of city-owned watershed lands in Roxbury by the Roxbury police department. It was agreed that the patrolling, which began about three months ago, will generally be limited during the winter months; it was also agreed that the Roxbury police will submit periodic reports to the city of Keene on the patrols.

There was some discussion regarding public access to the city's watershed lands. Hanscom said that a pending watershed management plan will likely have some security-related components for the sake of water protection. Crowder reported that the city has used remote cameras to monitor activity on the lands; he added that such use of cameras may expand. Roxbury officials expressed concerns about the restrictive messages on signs that are now posted on the watershed lands; Hanscom replied that the language on those signs conforms to state law. She explained that the state government determines the extent and nature of access to public water supply lands on a reservoir-by-reservoir basis. She further explained that the regulations and restrictions are reviewed periodically by the state; she said that she will find out when the next state review of Babbidge Reservoir/Woodward Pond watershed access rules will be reviewed by the state. In response to a question by the selectmen, she said that Roxbury would be alerted ahead of time to such a review. On this general topic, city officials referenced a formal agreement signed by Peter Stuhlsatz and dated April 9, 1997 that authorized the city to erect three gates on roads entering city-owned watershed lands. There ensued a discussion about the locking and unlocking of those gates. Hanscom agreed that effective immediately and running through the end of hunting season in December, the gates will remain unlocked;

she added that citizens using those roads must stay on the roads. Roxbury officials have keys to the gates.

The timing of planned redesign of parts of the Babbidge Dam were discussed. Work was to have started during the summer of 2017, but the city representatives said that such work will now begin in 2018.

Following the meeting with city officials, the selectmen took up a number of administrative matters. It was reported that the town conservation commission, which had entered a period of inactivity during the summer, will again become active, according to word from Michelle Drogue, the chairman of the commission.

There was brief discussion regarding the state's method of calculating the amounts of highway block grant funds that are issued to the town. Selectmen Rousmaniere agreed to approach state highway officials regarding that matter and report back.

Selectman Davis prepared the manifest of bills to be paid; the manifest was signed by the selectmen. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes approved by the selectmen