Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting March 12, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O’Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Town Clerk Robin Buffum; Moderator Mark Funk; Welfare Director Josh Hick, a representative of the Ridge Skippers Snowmobile Club, several residents.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. The minutes from the meeting of March 5 were read and approved.

Moderator Funk briefly discussed the upcoming Town Meeting with the selectmen.

Town Clerk Buffum reported that too few envelope sets for absentee ballots were provided by the Monadnock School District for March 13 voting. The Selectmen authorized her to put together alternative envelopes that conformed to ballot security standards. Further, it was agreed that the school district’s administrative office would be apprised of the matter on March 13 prior to voting in Roxbury.

A resident inquired by telephone about Town Hall rental on June 2. Rental materials will be sent to her.

Several residents whose homes are on Branch Road alerted the selectmen to excessive runoff from a class VI road that approaches Branch Road from the east; the runoff crosses Branch Road and causes erosion problems on the west side of Branch Road. It was explained that the problem appears to result from a large culvert on the Class VI road being filled with silt. The selectmen explained that, this being a Class VI road and therefore not maintained by the town, the matter is best addressed by volunteers, not government officials.

Welfare Director Hicks proposed alerting townspeople to a practice that he had heard about from another town by which interested parties send their unused gift cards to the local welfare director for eventual distribution to needy residents. The selectmen agreed that this is a good idea and that the proposal will be explained to residents at the March 13 town meeting and in other ways.

A representative of the Ridge Skippers Snowmobile Club reported that he had been copied on a letter to the selectmen from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire forests regarding Wheeler Brook Road in which the Society announced plans to remove a bridge and also block access to the road later in the year. The selectmen responded that they regard the road as a public road, and that they are not satisfied with the Society’s conclusion that the road is private and therefore appropriate to deny public access. An issue at hand is the fact that the referenced road, which is believed to have been in use before the town of Roxbury came into being in 1812, is not described on any layout documents. The selectmen agreed that the matter warrants continued attention.

The selectmen discussed the matter of public access to Keene water supply-related lands, including concerns that the city of Keene is inconsistent in providing public access. It was agreed that later this year the selectmen will arrange to meet with Keene public works officials to again air their concerns and resolve the matter.

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