Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen’s meeting Oct. 29, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Tim O’Brien, Mark Funk and Jim Rousmaniere; Road Agent Ken Buffum, Moderator Marcy White, resident Ed Ellis, Deborah Harling, two residents along Horse Hill Road, citizen John Yannacci

The meeting opened at 5 p.m. The minutes for the Oct. 22 meeting were approved.

The selectmen met with Deborah Harling, who has town administrative assistant experience in towns to the east, to discuss administrative assistant needs in Roxbury. She has offered to help identify possible candidates for an administrative assistant position in Roxbury should that currently-vacant position be opened.

Selectman Mark Funk reported that Tina Squires has been engaged to provide cleaning services to the town offices on a once-a-month basis. It was noted that Mark and Alice Funk had done significant cleaning of the offices during the prior week, in addition to arranging for the dehumidifier in that part of Town Hall to drain into a sink.

The Selectmen met separately with two residents of Horse Hill Road regarding a situation whereby a septic system for one property is located on the other resident’s property. One of the parties had sought information regarding the property that is served by the septic system; the Selectmen provided the information.

John Yannacci, a citizen, asked the Selectmen for the legal basis for the city of Keene’s installing locked bars on Class VI roads that lead through some of its properties in town. He further remarked on signs that have been posted along such roads that bar a range of activities, including hiking, on the city-owned lands. The Selectmen replied that the gates, which are kept unlocked during hunting season, and the signs relate to concerns about possible contamination of the city’s principal drinking water supply (some of which serves some Roxbury residents), and that the restrictions of movement on the roads resulted from discussions involving town and city officials. The Selectmen agreed to provide background information on the limits to access to Class VI roads on the watershed lands.

The Selectmen took receipt of $1,100 from the state of New Hampshire that was related to the state’s eminent domain proceedings associated with its Route 9 improvement project; the payment reflected an agreement with Granite Gorge, the prior owner of the land, to direct the sum to the Town of Roxbury to which past property taxes are owed. Selectman Rousmaniere noted that an additional $2,500 of eminent domain payments have been directed to the state Board of Tax and Land appeals for distribution to creditors of Granite Gorge; Roxbury conceivably could be awarded a portion of that sum as well.

The Selectmen discussed with Road Agent Buffum potholes on the Davis Road that ought to be addressed immediately either on a temporary or permanent basis. It was agreed that Road Agent Buffum would get to the work as soon as weather conditions allow; it was further agreed that Selectmen O’Brien and Funk would inspect the section of road in need of repair this week.
It was agreed that Road Agent Buffum would determine the cost of repairing a portion of Dillingham Road that has been substantially damaged by vehicles related to forestry work in the vicinity. It is understood that the cost of the repairs – whether carried out by the Town or by those parties responsible for the damage – will be paid for by parties who were responsible for the damage.

Responding to a letter from a resident of Houghton Ledge Road that the area near the intersection of that road and Route 9 can get icy due to runoff from a spur road off Houghton Ledge Road, Selectmen Rousmaniere reported on a discussion with Mark Moran, the top state official on the project, who reported that the solution to the matter might well involve work by (a) the state and (b) the town. Road Agent Buffum was instructed to contact Mr. Moran to discuss the matter.

Moderator Marcy White discussed preparations for the Nov. 6 elections. She noted that her information indicates that the Selectmen are responsible for recruiting poll workers; Selectman Rousmaniere agreed to undertake such recruitment.

The Selectmen were advised that a relative of a resident with a Branch Road address had sought guidance about getting approval to install a ramp to the home, which is on a non-conforming lot. It was agreed that the individual should contact the Zoning Board; he will be so advised.

It was noted that the citizen-run community Halloween Party in Town hall on Oct. 27 was a big success.

There being no further business, Selectman Funk filled out the manifest, which was signed. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.