

# SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 12, 2012

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Susan Hansel, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others Attending: Bert Wingerson, Priscilla Walter, Karen Tolman, Dennis Dellagreca, Bob Jones, Kathy Blaudschun

The meeting was opened at 6:02 PM by Chair David Upton.

The main discussion for this meeting included a presentation by, invited guest, David Crane of PSNH.

A brief update was presented regarding the line trimming in Nelson.

While some areas such as Breed Pond Road, Silver Lake Road, and a small section of Rt. 123 received trimming this year, the vast majority of work will be done next year.

The circuit that supplies a large number of homes in Nelson starts in Keene. Cutting has started in the area of the Rt. 10 intersection and work will continue this winter along this line beginning in Keene.

2008 was the last trimming of this nature in Nelson.

Mr. Crane presented information regarding changes in statutes following the ice storm a few years ago.

In the past a card was left at a residence or there was face to face contact with the land owner to receive approval for cutting and trimming.

Now the legal requirements for notice include a formal posted mailing. After 45 days of notice, and no response, it is considered approval and the utility may go forward with cutting and trimming.

If a land owner denies permission to PSNH to cut a potentially hazardous tree the legal liability is shared between PSNH and the land owner. In most cases PSNH does not pursue recovery of damages. It simply would not be cost effective in the majority of cases.

Trees being considered for cut go through an evaluation process to determine if it should come down.

In the case of larger trees typically PSNH will trim and chip brush but the Town then removes the larger logs. (The land owner may keep the wood)

If PSNH has a legal pole license they have a right to cut within the public right of way.

Granting a pole license is done by the Selectmen with a public hearing.

PSNH will also be notifying the Town Planning Board prior to the trimming project next year. A public hearing will be scheduled before the any work is done.

It is always the policy for PSNH to request a public hearing with the planning board when any work is to be done on a scenic roadway.

Mr. Crane noted that Nelson is more interested than most towns in the tree population and far more involved. He further indicated that, to his knowledge, no town has ever placed limits or restrictions on PSNH regarding their trimming projects.

Risk percentage and the number of customers on a line are part of the evaluation of what to cut and trim. PSNH usually trims only the primary lines. Other factors to consider are weather patterns and vegetative growth rate.

During a bad storm PSNH places priority on the lines handling the greatest number of customers. Approximately 80% of Nelson power comes up from Keene along Rt. 9.

David Crane will set up a time to spend several hours with Maury and Mike Tarr to tour the areas in Nelson already being considered for cutting or trimming by the highway department.

Residents were given an opportunity to ask questions and several people thanked PSNH for some of the work done in the past.

Mr. Crane noted his awareness of some of the complaints and problems from the past as well. People were encouraged to call if there are questions or problems in the future.

Next, Kathy Blaudschun asked to present a proposed budget and reports for the Old Home Day Committee. This year's request is \$500.00. This is an increase of \$150.00 to replace games that have been well used over the years and are worn.

Kathy also presented \$34.00 in cash to the Board for funds collected during Old Home Day activities.

There was more discussion regarding the Granite Lake Boat Ramp. Exact ownership of the property is still in question.

Documents from 1958 as well as the 1958 Town report do not clear up the mystery.

It is important to clarify ownership, responsibility and liability due to several matters of concern at or near the Boat ramp.

The Granite Lake Association has indicated that silt run off has been noted going into the lake. This seems to be caused from poor management of storm water flow at the road edge near the Munsonville Fire Station.

The ramp to the water is in very poor condition and meets the water with an unsafe drop off.

There is no public parking for vehicles once a boat has been launched.

Swimmers are often using the ramp area while boats are trying to launch.

Research will continue to answer the ownership question and to resolve some of the safety issues.

Next, David explained, that due to a need to provide information to the mapping company, the Road Historians should be officially appointed to help provide the information needed to move forward with the new Town tax maps.

David then made a motion to appoint Rick Church and Dave Birchenough as Road Historians. The motion was then modified to include "with the term to end at the 2014 Town meeting."

Maury seconded the modified motion which included the term of appointment.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

Paperwork was then passed for review and signing.

David made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2012 Selectmen's meeting.

Maury seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

David then made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2012 Selectmen's meeting.

Maury seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

Susan made a motion to approve the manifest as presented.

Maury seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

There was a brief discussion of the schedule for the next few weeks.

The December 19, 2012 meeting will be at 2:00 PM at the Town Office.

The January 2, 2013 meeting will be at 6:00 PM at the Town Office.

The Selectmen will not meet the week of Christmas.

The Administrative office will be closed that week as well.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector will be open on Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon and will

hold special hours from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Discussion continued regarding tree cutting forms for land owner notice and approval.  
David Crane will also review the forms in use by the Town.

With nothing further, Maury made a motion to adjourn.

Susan seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

December 12, 2012

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David Upton, Chair

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Maury Collins

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Susan Hansel