

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2019

PRESENT: David Lage, Chairman, John Veaser, Bert Hamill
Scott Butcher – Town Administrator
Cemetery Trustees Ollie Niemi, Bill Seppala, Gary Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. at the Town Office.

Chairman Lage began the discussion regarding the September 4th e-mail from Heather Neville, Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental Protection Bureau, NH Dept. of Justice, and how to address the issues outlined therein. The Selectmen and Cemetery Trustees discussed how many grave sites at Smithville Cemetery might be impacted and may have to be relocated. Selectman Hamill stated that the estimated cost to move each set of remains ranges from \$8,000 to \$20,000 each.

Chairman Lage wants clarification on what the safety concerns are that are mentioned in the State of NH e-mail. Selectman Hamill would like to know where the floodplain is delineated on the site plan provide by the State of NH. He also wanted to know when was the last time the State of NH actually performed maintenance on the dam. Chairman Lage stated that some of the remains that are buried in their locations since the 1980's, why is it that the State of NH is making an issue out of this now and didn't raise concerns much earlier?

Selectman Veaser identified where the bounds for the easement granted by the town to the State of NH for the construction and maintenance of the dam. He also discussed the land the State of NH acquired by eminent domain near Binney Hill Rd. at the front of the cemetery. The remains of some people have been buried there. Selectman Hamill noted that some of the headstones appear to be about 10-12 feet away from the dam base, but appear to be more than the 25 feet away from the dam toe drain as the State of NH is requesting.

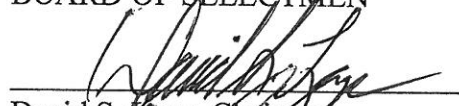
The Selectmen and the Cemetery Trustees discussed what grave sites would be impacted if the town was able to offer better access to the State for dam repair or maintenance and minimize the number of graves to be relocated. There was additional discussion on how to give the State better access from Binney Hill Rd. and provide an acceptable staging area when doing work on the dam becomes necessary.

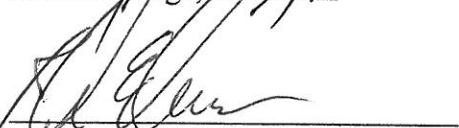
The Selectmen decided to arrange a meeting with Town Counsel to formulate a response to the State of NH for consideration to resolve the outstanding issues.

At 6:35 p.m. Selectman Veaser made a motion adjourn the meeting. Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Minutes approved by:
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



David S. Lige, Chairman

John Veaser

Bert Hamill