

**Town of Deerfield
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 16, 2016
MINUTES- Amended**

Call to Order

5:30p - Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

Present: Stephen Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman; Andrew Robertson, Jeff Shute and Fred McGarry Selectmen

Excused: Andrew Robertson, Selectman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Barry asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Scheduled Appointments

Substation Expansion - Northern Pass Transmission LLC

Representatives from Northern Pass Catalina Celentano, Community Relations, Barry Needleman, General Counsel, and James Jiottis. Project Manager, were introduced. Chairman Barry spoke that the broader subject of the Northern Pass would not be within the scope of tonight's discussion, but that conversation would center around the substation plans specifically.

Mr. Jiottis presented a history of the Deerfield Substation. The Substation sits on a 62.98 acre parcel of land and was first energized in 1974. The footprint of the substation is 8.5 acres. The Substation cost some \$20 million to build and has had an additional \$58 million in improvements since expansion began in 2003. Plans for expansion that would occur with the Northern Pass Project's approval were described. Eversource will plan to increase the footprint of the substation by 3.7 acres, there would be an additional 8.4 acres of disturbance and 15.7 acres of clearing. The needs and specifications of the upgrades have been identified by an Interconnectivity Study paid for by the Northern Pass Project. Dependent on permitting and the Northern Pass Project being approved by the end of 2017, earth work would begin in March 2018, and construction would run through December 2018.

Selectman McGarry noted that the site plans do not show any structures within the development and asked about those plans. Mr. Jiottis responded that there would be additional facilities built with the upgrade, ISO is currently reviewing the plans and its report will dictate the size of the control house, etc. Selectman McGarry asked whether there were any plans for sound barriers. Mr. Jiottis responded yes and referred to the sound studies included in the project application. Selectman McGarry asked about cut and fill land work, Mr. Jiottis described that much of the project will utilize the materials on site, but that trucking will be required. He again referred to the application's Traffic Plan as it discusses the expected trucking in/out of the property. Selectman Robertson asked about Eversource's 2013 purchase of land behind the Legion Hall in Deerfield. Mr. Jiottis indicated that the land was purchased as part of a project to install a

distribution substation, this project is separate from Northern Pass and was driven by the ten year load demand projections that Eversource conducts. In 2012 it was identified that a distribution substation may be needed by 2019 and so the land was purchased. He spoke that since 2012 the 10 year projections have shifted and that the current plan does not include a new substation on the property. Selectman McGarry asked whether the plans would include accommodating power from Maine wind farms, Mr. Jiottis answered that current studies do not call for adding distribution capacities in Deerfield.

Rebecca Hutchinson of Lang Road asked that the Board consider opening the floor so that attendees could ask any questions related to the Northern Pass as she feels this is the first opportunity for residents to ask live, unscripted questions. Chairman Barry responded that the Board was open to those in attendance asking any questions Northern Pass would address.

Jim Cannon of South Road asked what value the Northern Pass would bring to the people of Deerfield. He spoke of Eversource's goal to qualify the Project as a depreciating asset and spoke to the Town's legal involvement with Eversource regarding tax rates. Mr. Jiottis referred to the Application information around property taxes. Selectman Robertson confirmed that there had been some court interaction in the past five years between Deerfield and PSNH, but could not speak to specifics off the top of his head.

Chris Coombs of Haynes Road asked about the lines coming into the grid. Mr. Jiottis described that Deerfield was chosen as the site for the connections due to its location. He indicated that the driver for steel lines has more to do with the width of the right of way than with the line capacities.

Lisa Page of South Road spoke that she does not feel Deerfield will benefit from any of the work associated with Northern Pass. Jeanne Menard of Mountain Road asked about the right of way that runs into the Currier Conservation Road and asked why the road was being built. Mr. Jiottis answered that it was in relation to a separate line project where Eversource is storm hardening, or reinforcing/replacing the structures in place.

Bill Duchano of Bean Hill Road spoke to the sound studies that were conducted by Northern Pass noting that they were carried out during the winter and that snow muffles the sound. He asked whether Northern Pass planned to re-do the study during the summer time. Mr. Jiottis responded that the intent was to take readings during the most quiet time.

Denise Greig of Thurston Pond Road referenced appendix 39 and asked whether a sound barrier would be part of the project. Mr. Jiottis confirmed that it is a part of the application and plans to be installed. He described a steel wall with fiberglass material. Sara Kjendal of Coffeetown Road spoke of a heavy drum in the air and asked whether doubling the size of the substation would double the amount of noise, Mr. Jiottis responded that the plan is to have no increase to the noise volume.

Erik Berglund of Nottingham Road spoke of the history with the G146 project where a pole went down in a wetland area resulting in significant damage and asked how the Northern Pass would ensure that the Best Management Practices are adhered to. Mr. Jiottis responded that processes have changed significantly since the G146 incident. He described that a Project Monitor is on site at all times and that the process for screening contractors has improved. Mr. Berglund asked whether there had been failures since the improved processes, Mr. Jiottis could not say that there have not been mistakes made.

Mr. Karakoudas of Middle Road asked whether the representatives had read and were familiar with the Vision Statement of Deerfield specifically as it relates to Northern Pass. He read the statement for the audience. Barry Neddleman, Northern Pass General Counsel, responded that a detailed visual impact statement along with information around orderly regional development were components of the Project Application. He spoke that Bob Blarney had reviewed the Master Plan for all Towns along the Project route and compiled a detailed report on that matter. Mr. Peter Lyon asked what it would take for Eversource to step away from the Project and expressed frustration that every question seems to be answered by referring to paperwork.

Kate Hartnett of Thurston Pond Road read from the reference report from Mr. Blarney a quote that "...by locating parts of the Project underground the plans will not interfere with implementation of local plans." She suggested that Northern Pass seek not to maintain the current noise levels suffered by the residents but to improve upon them.

Jim Page of South Road spoke that he finds the Project to be stacked to one side and asked if there wasn't a bigger reason behind the design, for example plans to add a second 345 line. Mr. Jiottis responded that there were no plans for an additional line and that there are no land rights to allow for an additional line.

Susan Seitz of Cole Road spoke of the tree cutting that had been done recently by subcontractors of Eversource. She was told trees would be marked with blue and white tape and they were actually marked with orange and yellow. She asked how Northern Pass can expect to maintain control over its subcontractors in the woods where no one is watching when it can't even do so along the public roads of the Town.

Madelyn Foulkes of Nottingham Road asked what plans there were to compensate the people affected by the substation expansion, Mr. Jiottis responded that there were no plans to compensate individuals. Mr. Neddleman referred to the Application, specifically the orderly regional development portion and urged everyone to review the report prepared by Jim Chalmers and available online.

Kevin Cini asked about the clearing and alterations happening at the land behind the Legion and asked what the purpose of that work was if there were no plans for the next decade. Mr. Jiottis was unsure but indicated he would look into the question.

Diane Shores of Upham Drive expresses a concern about stray voltage and the impacts it would have on pacemakers. She is a resident of Deerfield's Senior Housing and noted that Building D is approximately 35 feet from the existing right of way. Mr. Jiottis responded that the line design is optimized to minimize stray voltage and referenced Gary Johnson's testimony within the Project Application which speaks to those issues.

Harriet Cady commented that in the Northern Pass' three previous visits to Deerfield it was asked to send plans and provided some 124 pages for review that are available on the Town's website. She noted that the substation was there when most of the speakers bought land in Deerfield. Selectman McGarry clarified that the plans were not on the Town Website but in the Town Offices.

Jeanne Menard spoke that when identifying alternate routes for the Project, Northern Pass identified the 38 acres behind the Legion as a potential location. In March 2016 at a Public Hearing the justification for the purchase that was given was that Eversource "...will build a substation there," to which tonight's statements are contrary. She noted that residents are just trying to get a road map of the plans for Town and that the more information provided by Eversource the better.

Suzanne Steele of Harvey Road expressed concern about induced electricity and the impact it's having on a Cate Road resident's internet, cable and phones. Mr. Jiottis responded that the issues should not be caused by Eversource, but that if she is able to provide an address they can send someone out to review the situation. Ms. Steele thanked the group for coming and asked why the agenda had changed since May 2nd from discussing the Project as a whole to specifically the substation. Mr. Neddleman responded that Deerfield has had two hearings on Northern Pass, more than all other Towns with the exception of Concord and Whitefield. He noted that the Site Evaluation Committee drives the volume and type of information being provided and encouraged residents with questions to put them to the Committee. Ms. Steele asked the representatives to speak to the cutting planned near the Deerfield Church, Mr. Jiottis referred to the maps for the Project, specifically the clearing plans.

It was asked whether it would be possible to bury the lines in Deerfield. Mr. Jiottis responded yes, but that money aside, putting 345 lines underground would create its own set of technical challenges and would require other facilities along the route. He could not speak to the overall impact of burying the lines.

Charlotte Crane of Plymouth asked why the plans included burying the lines in Plymouth. Mr. Jiottis responded that the lines in Plymouth are DC lines, the transmission is converted to AC in Franklin.

Denise Greig asked whether Eversource has plans looking out 15-20 years. Mr. Jiottis responded that they only work in ten year increments. Ms. Greig asked whether ISO take a longer range view. Mr. Jiottis answered no that they work in the same ten year forecasting. Ms. Greig asked what happens at the Deerfield substation if the Northern Pass Project is denied by

the Committee. Mr. Jiottis answered nothing. Ms. Greig asked what volume increase would trigger the need for the second substation at the Legion location, Mr. Jiottis indicated that he didn't know off hand, but can provide that information

Maureen Quinn of Nottingham Road asked how the goals and objectives of Deerfield's Master Plan could be disregarded. Mr. Neddleman responded that he "Respectfully disagrees" and that the Plan has not been disregarded. Ms. Quinn asked whether there were alternatives to the substation expansion, Mr. Jiottis answered no. Ms. Quinn asked whether there were plans to offer Deerfield additional compensation, Mr. Neddleman referred to the Forward NH Plan, an economic incentive package that is part of the Application.

Selectman Robertson spoke that he feels hiring legal counsel to back the Town and the Board will be critical regardless of which side of the issue you are on.

Sharon Godlewski of Middle Road asked about FEMA and the Department of Energy having looked at the vulnerability of the New England Grid. Mr. Jiottis spoke that yes, Eversource has been involved in that review. Ms. Gadbuski countered that, with so significant a study, she can't believe all parties would only be looking out ten years.

Tom Folks of Nottingham Road spoke that in 2009 ISO had done a study that looked out through 2030 and that Deerfield was at the center of much of that study. The study called for Maine Wind Power and Canadian Hydro Power all to come into the Deerfield facility.

A resident from Nottingham Road asked whether Scobie Pond was connected to Deerfield, Mr. Jiottis responded yes, the Resident spoke of the importance of the Deerfield to Scobie to Chester flow so that power can be rerouted when there is an outage. He asked whether the substation at the Legion would be a sub transmission line or a distribution line, Mr. Jiottis responded the station would be for transformation/distribution.

Mr. Cannon asked whether Eversource was seeking to change the way Towns taxed its distribution lines. He asked that the Board ask for the CEO's position on property taxes in writing.

Chairman Barry called a close to the Question and Answer portion of the meeting and thanked the Representatives from Northern Pass for their attendance. He welcomed any information that they may have to pass back to the Town.

Regular Business

Minutes - May 2, 2016

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second: Selectman McGarry

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Accounts Payable - \$42,238.82

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Awarding of Bids - Mowing

Mark Tibbetts recommended that the Town award the Mowing contract to Mattise Collins Property Services of Chichester in the amount of \$15,000 for a 2 year contract.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion: Vice Chairman Pitman asked whether the contract was a guaranteed amount, Mr. Tibbetts responded that no, he calls them out to cut as needed. The \$15,000 contract includes 20 visits/year.

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Awarding of Bids - Painting Town Hall

Mark Tibbetts recommended that the Town award the Town Hall painting contract to Randy Young of Quality Painting

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Tax Collector's Warrant - \$6,041,092

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve

Second: Selectman McGarry

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Tax Collector's Warrant - Current Land Use Change Tax - \$6,500 - Tukcor Real Estate

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

Second: Selectman McGarry

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Common Interest Agreement

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to authorize the Chair to Sign

Second: Selectman Shute

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Nomination to Appoint Daniel Tripp to the Upper Lamprey Scenic Byway Council

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve

Second: Selectman Shute

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Southern NH Electric Cooperative Consortium

Chairman Barry described that entering into the consortium would save the Town \$9,801, \$8,635, and \$7,642 over the next three years respectively.

Motion: Selectman Robertson moves to approve and authorize the Chair to sign

Second: Vice Chairman Pitman

Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Non-Contemporaneous Business - May 5, 6 and 7, 4 Members Signing

Payroll Manifest - \$55,329.73 (\$41,920.10 net)

Accounts Payable - \$55,128.08

Intent to Cut Wood or Timber - Lorena Sinnamon, Mountain Road

Signatures Executed

Intent to Excavate - Parade Road - Steven Rollins

Signatures Executed

Correspondence

Chairman Barry noted that since the May 2nd meeting the Town has received \$7,175 in donations for the Northern Pass Defense Fund from a number of contributors. He added that Attorney Whitley was present at the meeting.

The list of trees to be cut on scenic roads in Town will be posted to the Town's website.

The Town has received the 2016 PEG Access Support Grant in the amount of \$559.50.

The NH Electrical Co-Op will be spraying along the right of way. Information will be posted to the Town's website.

Town Administrator's Report None

New Business

Vice Chairman Pitman noted that he will be working with Chief Tibbetts on the Willow Lane/Sunset Lane confusion and will return to the Board with a full report.

Citizens Comments

Susan Seitz asked about the pesticide spraying noting that the cutting of scenic roads indicated that the project would include no pesticides. Selectman Robertson clarified that it was a different utility company spraying.

Erik Berglund asked whether Selectman Robertson's comment about "Walking on a fine line" had been made as a member of the Board or as a private citizen. Selectman Robertson responded that he feels it is important for Residents to be properly represented as an Intervenor in the process. Mr. Berglund asked how many contributors had given to the Defense Fund; Chairman Barry approximated 42-45 and confirmed that a full accounting is being kept. Mr. Berglund noted that the Northern Pass Application is no longer on the Town's website. The

Town Administrator responded that the link may have been moved or changed, but that she will look into it.

A Resident spoke that she appreciated the opportunity to address the Northern Pass and suggested that the Board should have asked for a show of hands who was for and against the Project to really demonstrate the Community's opinion.

Ms. Kate Hartnett thanked the Board for hosting the meeting. Ms. Denise Greig suggested that the Town's website point to the Northern Pass complete Application on the NH Site Evaluation Committee Website.

Ms. Joanne Bradbury echoed the thanks and asked about the cutting on the non-scenic roads. An Eversource Representative had told her that the Town's permission was needed to do the cutting; she asked what the nature of that permission was. Chairman Barry responded that the land along Routes 107 and 43 is State owned land. Ms. Bradbury will ask the Public Utility Commission for documentation of that permission in writing.

Ms. Harriet Cady asked to see the instructions given to Attorney Whitley to represent Deerfield as Intervenor. Ms. Cady has a question from Joanne Wasson regarding the section of Mt. Delight Road to Ridge Road being all ledge. Ms. Cady suggested that when considering burying lines as a viable alternative to the Project that people keep in mind the ledge along the route. She specifically noted the blasting that would need to occur at Mt Delight and Ridge Roads, likely impacting local wells.

Adjourn

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of May 16, 2016

Second: Selectman Robertson

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Next Meeting Monday, May 23, 2016 @ 5:30p

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.*