



TOWN OF WAYLAND

41 COCHITUATE ROAD
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

FREDERIC E. TURKINGTON JR.
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
TEL. (508) 358-7755
www.wayland.ma.us

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JOHN BLADON
EDWARD J. COLLINS
STEVEN J. CORREIA
DOUGLAS J. LEARD
JOSEPH F. NOLAN

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes June 4, 2012

Attendance: Edward Collins, Steven Correia, Joseph Nolan (arrived 2:09 p.m.)

Also Present: Town Administrator Fred Turkington

Vice Chair S. Correia called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 2:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room and reviewed the agenda for the public. Chair John Bladon and Selectman Doug Leard were unable to attend. There were approximately 35 residents from Wayland, Framingham and Sudbury present to hear from NStar officials.

A1. Meeting with NStar Regarding Vegetation Maintenance near Transmission Lines S. Correia explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the vegetation management program under electric transmission lines in the southwest corner of Wayland that bisect the Oak Hill Road and Meadow View Road neighborhood, extending in each direction into Framingham and Sudbury. It was noted that the right-of-way was secured by easements that date to 1940's or earlier, and pre-date the approval and construction of the subdivision in the late 1960's. Neighborhoods in Framingham and Sudbury have been working with state legislators and local officials in an effort to understand the scope of the tree removal and vegetation management program to be undertaken to secure electric system reliability. He reviewed letters from Wayland residents, State Representative Tom Conroy, and other impacted residents from Framingham and Sudbury. Also present at the meeting were Nancy Stevens, Director of Consumer Affairs at the State Department of Public Utilities, and Sudbury Board of Selectmen chair Larry O'Brien.

S. Correia introduced Walter Saldi, manager of community relations at NStar; Bill Hayes, Vegetation Program Manager; and Bill McDermitt, Tree Crew Program Manager. W. Saldi reviewed the scope of work, explaining it was part of an ongoing effort to secure the reliability of transmission lines that service the regional grid (including six substations) by removing all trees below the lines and selective removal of trees likely to grow to heights that either interfere with the lines or if felled, would compromise the transmission lines. B. Hayes detailed the work that all trees greater than 15' would be cut to 1" to 3" above the ground after ground clutter is removed. Hand work and clean-up follows. Fruit trees, dogwoods and other trees that typically don't grow higher than 20' can remain and are encouraged to provide soil stability and aesthetics to property formerly enjoying stands of trees. No mitigation plan or budget exists, but NStar typically works with residents on a case-by-case basis.

N. Stevens announced that the DPU (Department of Public Utilities) and NStar had agreed to a cessation of work for the week of June 4 to allow officials to develop a mitigation plan and reconsider scope of tree removal in neighborhoods.

L. O'Brien discussed the NStar work in the Stock Farm Road neighborhood and warned Wayland Selectmen to be cautious about the lack of communication, the need to clarify decision-making authority within NStar, and the need to assure follow-up on mitigation. He criticized NStar for meeting with Framingham and Wayland Selectmen after declining a request from Sudbury. W. Saldi apologized for miscommunication and

said that NStar would attend a June 12 meeting of Sudbury Selectmen. L. O'Brien asked NStar to develop a mitigation budget and to fund tree or fence replacement in backyards of those homes where trees standing for 15-25 years are removed.

J. Nolan related his experience managing rights-of-way and similar projects for the MBTA, and he asked the utility to develop and fund a mitigation plan and to improve communications. While it might have a legal right to engage in cutting, consideration to the difference between residential neighborhoods and open meadows must be given.

Public Comment Rob Noa, 7 Meadow View Road, cited concerns such as visual impacts, loss of stability of the ground, and possible contamination of town and private wells from use of Roundup and other chemicals as part of the integrated vegetation management plan of NStar.

Deborah Dyson Diaz, 22 Oak Hill Road, presented a letter from residents concerning the vegetation maintenance activities and requesting a moratorium on further work pending company officials nine specific requests detailed in the letter. She questioned whether work was being performed in wetlands without meeting conditions required of others doing work in similar designated areas.

Linda Segal, 9 Aqueduct Road, wondered whether the town could impose a permit condition for work in transmission lines similar to that required for work on distribution lines in town right-of-way.

Tom Gulley, 20 Meadow View Road, asked whether an arbitrator could be used to resolve disputes between residents and NStar if mitigation measures were not agreed upon.

Cesar Castillo, 21 Oak Hill Road, questioned the dangers of the chemicals being used. B. Hayes responded that the chemical was the same as the Roundup used by residents, and met standards for use in restricted areas, regardless whether the area under the transmission lines required it.

S. Correia concluded the meeting by asking NStar to work with the DPU to develop and communicate a mitigation plan by Friday, or continue the voluntary cessation of work until such time that a plan is developed. He also asked that the DPU investigate regulatory remedies to assure residents' concerns are considered and addressed.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting, If Any S. Correia said there were no additional topics.

Adjourn There being no further business before the Board, J. Nolan moved, seconded by E. Collins, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 3:56 p.m. YEA: E. Collins, S. Correia, J. Nolan. NAY: none. ABSENT: J. Bladon, D. Leard. ABSTAIN: none. Adopted 3-0.

Items Included as Part of Agenda Packet for Discussion During the June 4, 2012 Board of Selectmen's Meeting

1. Map of the Oak Hill Road/Meadow View Road Neighborhood
2. Courtesy Notification from NStar to Residents
3. Letter of 5/1/12 from NStar to Brian Monahan, Conservation Administrator, re: Notification of Integrated Vegetation Management Program