

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Selectman Mike Marconi, Planning Board Chair, Denis Hebert, Eversource Representatives; Lauren Cote, Dena Champy, Kurt Nelson, Maria Letourneau, Jennifer Codispoti, Logan Young, Richard Hall, Emily Savinelli, Lulu Pickering, Karen Anderson, Special Projects Coordinator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 1:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Seacoast Reliability Project Update:**

L. Cote updated the town on the project. Eversource has completed the Madbury and Portsmouth substations, the underground work in Durham and Newington, the final testing for the cables will be finished this week, the poles will be installed in Newington and will be put in service during the second quarter in 2020. Helicopters will probably be used to install wires on transmission structures. Residents will be getting a letter letting them know the dates this will happen. The dates have not been set yet, a three-day notice is usually what is given, and notifications will happen at that time. The helicopters would bring in the wires from a staging area. Eversource uses helicopters because they can get a lot done quickly.

D. Hebert asked what could be done about the mud on the roads. Eversource will sweep the roads more often to try and combat this problem. D. Hebert reminded Eversource that Newington has weight limits on the roads in March, so the trucks would not be able to get through town. D. Hebert also mentioned that the trucks have done a lot of damage to Gundalow Landing because they use Gundalow to wait in line to get into the Flynn Pit area. L. Cote reminded D. Hebert that Newington captured the condition of all their roads before the project started and all roads will be restored to their pre-project condition.

There are distribution cables on the poles, and they are waiting for the cable company to come and move the wires and then the telephone company can move their wires. While there are two poles, both poles can be taxed. Durham has already sent information to the PUC to urge the cable companies to remove the poles. D. Hebert thought that Newington should join Durham to try and force the cable company to do the right thing with the poles. If they leave the old pole there, then there should be a number for the old pole and a number for the new pole. The phone company owns the poles. L. Cote said that the Durham

public works director has a template that he could send to Karen Anderson so she can prepare a letter and have the Board of Selectmen sign.

**Little Bay Update:**

The barges have been removed and everything has been completed in Little Bay. The SEC website has a water quality report from the studies done on the water. The jet plow and hand jetting installation were in compliance with all the water quality standards. Over 24,500 test samples were taken and tested during the process. K. Latchaw asked when the tests were done. They were done 2 hours before the jet plow process, during the process and 2 hours after. They are testing the shellfish and eel grass. The salt marsh restoration will be done in the spring.

D. Hebert said that he had pictures of the concrete mattresses and will send them to the Town Hall. Eversource colored the mattresses to match the color of the mud. Snails have been seen moving into the mattresses, which is a good sign.

The group reviewed the Flynn Pit Landscape Mitigation Plan. Discussion ensued about adding boulders among the tree plantings to discourage people from driving in the area, adding a lock on the gate, removing the gravel road that is there instead of just adding loam to the top of the gravel. D. Hebert didn't think the trees would be able to grow in the gravel road. L. Cote pointed out that Eversource guarantees their plantings. Hannah Lane has an aggressive planting program in place. The plans have been developed and approved by the residents. L. Pickering expressed concern that people were walking in the Flynn Pit area and then across her private property. Since everything has been cleared out it is hard for people to know where the public land ends and the private land begins. L. Pickering would like to reestablish the boundary line. L. Cote asked what type of boundary L. Pickering would prefer. L. Pickering would like a gate with boulders on the sides.

K. Latchaw expressed concern that the land would not be restored to the original elevations and would cause drainage issue in town, especially in the area of Hannah Lane. Eversource has committed to restoring the area to the original condition. Hannah Lane was a preexisting condition. K. Latchaw is concerned that the ground water is contaminated and the PFOs will spread out over the ground if there are drainage problems. D. Hebert added that if there is pooling then it would need to be fixed. T. Connors said that the town engineers would look at the issue.

The original cost of the project was 84.3 million, but there has been an adjustment of 40 million for a new total of 126.3 million for the full project across all of the towns.

T. Connors thanked the Eversource representatives for coming in and updating the Selectmen.

**General Sullivan Bridge Mitigation:**

The board apologized to L. Pickering because they only had a few minutes to talk to L. Pickering about the bridge mitigation. The Board agreed to meet with L. Pickering on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm to discuss this topic in more detail. L. Pickering outlined the best way to go about getting the funds to restore historic areas in town. The best way would be to restore a historic building to look more like it did 100 years ago and let the NHDOT know what the use for the building will be. The plan must have all the details spelled out. L. Pickering thought that restoring the train depot on Bloody Point would be the best project. The first floor could be rented out for events and the second floor could be an apartment. There is a meeting in Concord about this on Friday January 24<sup>th</sup>. L. Pickering needs two items before the meeting. A memo describing what the Town of Newington wants and a breakdown of everything the Town would want to do to the structure at Bloody Point.

**M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 2:31pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). K. Latchaw seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

**K. Latchaw moved to return to public session, seconded by M. Marconi. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

The Board returned from the nonpublic session at 4:02pm.

**M. Marconi moved to seal the non-public minutes indefinitely. K. Latchaw seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

**T Connors recessed the meeting until 10am on Wednesday January 15th. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 10am on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 10:01am per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). K. Latchaw seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

**K. Latchaw moved to return to public session, seconded by M. Marconi. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

The Board returned from the nonpublic session at 11:12am.

**M. Marconi moved to seal the non-public minutes indefinitely. K. Latchaw seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi- Yes, K. Latchaw- Yes, T. Connors- Yes. All were in favor.**

**Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 11:13am. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder