

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 7th, 2023

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Newington PDA Rep Margaret Lamson, Newington/Greenland PDA Rep Susan Parker, Building Inspector Jeremy Boston, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Residents Lis Connors and Brian Semprini, Town Administrator Martha Roy and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PDA Million Air Project:

S. Parker explained that the Millionaire fixed base operation concept plan was approved in April 2021. The concept plain included eight items:

- A 18,000 square foot building
- An area for aircraft parking
- A fuel farm
- An area for fuel truck parking
- An area for employee and customer parking
- An outdoor entertainment area
- Fencing
- Subdivision of a 2.65-acre lot

B. Arsenault explained that the Board of Selectmen are very concerned about the location of the fuel farm. The location that they are proposing is in the wetlands and aquifer that could potentially affect the drinking water for Newington.

The Selectmen also have concerns that the engineering company that prepared the design for this project, usually does the review of projects for the PDA. There has been no third-party review of this project design. T. Connors said that it is definitely a conflict of interest. B. Arsenault asked if the PDA had hired an independent reviewer for the application. M. Lamson said she didn't know, but would ask. The Board would like the PDA Reps to ask for a public third-party review of the application and engineering.

There is also a concern with the wetland study done in 2022. The wetland area is definitely much smaller in the 2022 study compared to the same area wetland report done in 2017 for Seacoast Helicopters. The interesting issue with the 2022 Wetlands report is that there are no wetlands shown in the middle of the wetlands as there were in the 2017 report. This area is conveniently where Million Air is proposing to put an access road for this project. This report has not been privately reviewed to understand

the difference of the two reports of 10,000 square feet of wetlands in 2017 compared to 3,000 square feet of wetlands in 2022. The Board would like the PDA Reps to ask that a wetlands engineer review the 2022 wetland report. A third party review is vital.

Another issue is the location for the fuel farm. Is there any other land that could be used that is more environmentally friendly? The PDA is supposed to be doing projects for the "public good". How does this project benefit the communities in the area?

In conclusion B. Arsenault explained that the Board would like the PDA Reps to get answers to the following questions before they vote "yes" on this project going forward:

- A thorough review of the available sites on Pease to determine if there is a less obtrusive option
- A public third-party review of the design of the project-not conducted by the designing engineering firm
- A Wetlands Engineer to review the buffer zone and regions of impact to solve our 2017 vs 2022 disagreement
- A complete and public explanation of the benefit to our region and the public

S. Parker said that as a steward of the public trust it is important to ask these questions answered about this project.

B. Arsenault said that the TRC process application went through Portsmouth and citizens weren't even allowed to speak about their concerns about the water.

S. Parker said that she would get the numbers for Newington and Greenland in regards to the water consumption calculations for the pump facility at Pease.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 6:09pm. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder