

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 4th, 2018 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Denis and Ann Hebert, Samara Robertson, Jack O'Reilly, Nin Dell Isola, Police Chief, Mike Bilodeau, Jim Weiner, Jessica Morgan, Dana Nowell, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 9:00am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Hebert updated the Selectmen on the SEC Site Committee hearings about the Eversource transmission lines.

D. Hebert explained that he believes the Selectmen and the town attorneys have done everything they could to fight against Eversource.

During the current deliberations, that are taking place in Concord, no comments are being accepted. However, D. Hebert is able to speak to Eversource's attorney during the breaks to correct any misinformation that has happened during the deliberations. D. Hebert feels the committee is "pro eversource" and closed minded to the Town's concerns.

D. Hebert asked everyone to come to the hearing on Thursday to make a statement to the SEC Site Committee. He thought the group should walk in together.

J. Weiner expressed his concerns about the sediment that will be stirred up by the jet plow. The Conservation Commission met with Eversource to talk about the sediment problem.

D. Hebert explained that before the project can move forward there has to be a trial run of the jet plow in Little Bay. If the water quality test fails, after the jet flow test, then they can't move forward. Ann Hebert pointed out that the water quality test would be done by an independent monitoring group and they will be following the DES water quality standards. Denis Hebert did point out that if Eversource gets the permit they could still start the project and do everything except the jet plow.

The SEC committee has 30 days after December 10th to make their decision. After the SEC committee makes its decision the Town has a right to ask for

reconsideration or they could file an appeal. K. Latchaw explained that once the committee makes their decision the Selectmen will have a public meeting to get the Town's feedback about what the next steps should be. N. Dell Isola asked that there be a large campaign to make everyone aware of what's going on. Samara Robertson expressed her concern about the need to know what is going on. T. Connors told S. Robertson that the Selectmen are available to have a one on one meetings anytime, just call and let Martha Roy know that you would like a meeting. Jessica Morgan asked that the Selectmen meetings be moved to 6:30pm so more working people could attend.

Denis Hebert showed where the transmission lines will be going. He pointed out that many improvements have been made from the original proposal. The 100 foot right of way was reduced to 25 feet. There were originally 3 poles needed for the transition to underground and now there will be only one. Eversource has agreed to plant flora and trees in transition areas. Poles that were closer to the road will now be back 400 feet.

J. Weiner asked about the change in the view scape. D. Hebert asked if he Town could get a rendering of how it will look on Nimble Hill road. M. Roy will look into it.

N. Del Isola wanted to encourage everyone to write letters to the Portsmouth Herald.

A. Hebert explained that the site evaluation committee doesn't want the exposure and feels that the Town could take an appeal all the way to the NH Supreme Court.

K. Latchaw reviewed the press release draft with the selectmen. **M. Marconi moved to send out the press release. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

New Business: T. Connors talked about an article in the paper today about the health study being done on firefighters. T. Connors questioned why Newington is being left out of another study and asked M. Roy to send a letter to our representatives asking why.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 10:04 am. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder