

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 3, 2015 Town Hall

Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Present: Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jan Stuart, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Town Consulting Atty. Susan Geiger, Town Atty. John Ratigan, a large contingent of Town residents, Newington Land Use Board members and Eversource representatives.

Attorney Susan Geiger spoke on behalf of the Town Selectmen. She stated that the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) process will involve further hearings in the future. Some will be held in Newington and some in Concord. She related to everyone that the Town has intervened in this matter.

Attorney Geiger explained that the Board of Selectmen's primary position was to find an alternate route for the transmission lines. The Site Evaluation Committee will determine the path. The Town's fallback position, if the SEC decides that there is no other reasonable alternate route, is that the transmission lines should be buried all through town.

Lulu Pickering asked if the SEC makes a decision on the route that the Town is not in favor of can the Town proceed with legal action. Atty. Geiger stated that the Town can start by appealing the decision and then if the SEC denies the appeal the matter can move forward to the NH Supreme Court.

Jim Jiottis of Normandeau Engineering, representing Eversource, proceeded with a slide presentation of the various alternate routes and the problems with each. This led him to explain that Eversource proposes to start underground from the water's edge coming in to town and come up out of the ground in the Flynn Pit property. They would then proceed above ground to the edge of the Historic District and go back underground to beyond the Hannah Lane subdivision. From this point on the transmission lines would be above ground to the town border with Portsmouth.

Many questions were asked and opinions given relative to: the endangered species at the Wildlife refuge and that alternate route, Superfund site on the alternate route along Arboretum Drive, Historic District area and impact on other historic homes in town, Federal 106 process, allowable distance between gas easement and transmission easement, how costs of transmission line

construction will be distributed and various alternate routes residents were in favor of.

The legal counsel for Eversource stated that they want to keep on working with the Town and residents to arrive at a mutually agreeable route.

C. Iocovozzi thanked everyone for attending. He told the public that they would most likely have a further informational meeting as developments arose.

Adjournment: C. Iocovozzi adjourned the Selectmen's portion of the meeting at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy
Town Administrator