

Newington Board of Selectmen

Resident Information

March 5, 2019

At the public hearing held on Saturday, March 2, 2019, residents voiced their concerns regarding the location of the 'lay down area' to be used by Eversource. Residents also expressed their views in pursuing a rehearing and possibly taking it to the Supreme Court. The concerned residents realized the court had the right to refuse hearing this challenge.

After the public hearing, we discussed with our legal counsel, in-depth, what residents clearly articulated to us. As a result we amended the agreement to be presented to Eversource. The Old Town Hall soccer field will not be considered for an Eversource 'lay down area' as it would be detrimental to the children's summer program, all the youth activities that take place on the field throughout the year and damage to the trees.

The Town Garage, Stone School and Transfer Station will be leased by Eversource for use as a laydown area. In addition, if these areas are in use when the summer youth program is in session, a safety officer will be present to safely monitor truck traffic.

The three selectmen share the concerns that were passionately expressed regarding the project coming through our town. Unfortunately, after five years, previous selectmen's decisions, thousands of dollars in attorney's fees spent in opposition to the project, and hundreds of hours of deliberation, the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) ruled in favor of Eversource and against Newington. As your elected representatives, we must act in the best interests of the Town as a whole. Therefore, after a thorough review of the facts, attorney's recommendations and the likelihood of not prevailing with the SEC appeal and Supreme Court we believe it is appropriate to bring this issue to closure via settlement rather than risking the Eversource agreement with an uncertain rehearing and court challenge.

The Newington Selectmen have amended the agreement with Eversource to include the new laydown area described above.