



OFFICE OF
SELECTMEN

The Town Of Newington New Hampshire

Established 1713

Press Release from Newington Selectmen-

12-4-18

This letter is in response to concerned citizens regarding the pending Eversource Seacoast Reliability Project that is currently undergoing deliberations via the SEC (Site Evaluation Committee) in Concord. To date, Newington Selectmen have responded to this project as follows:

- Intervening via legal counsel with the SEC to stop, alter, and/or negotiate to place wires underground for this project;
- By empowering the Planning Board Chairperson, Denis Hebert, to speak on behalf of the Selectmen, and thus, Newington as a whole to the SEC. Selectmen were prevented from speaking at the public hearing held at Pease due to Newington being an intervenor.
- By having Mr. Hebert, in concert with attorneys, Susan Geiger, Beth Boepple, and John Ratigan, take part in all testifying and negotiations associated with the project;
- By ensuring that we have been supporting Mr. Hebert, and the attorneys, as well as the mission at hand related to stopping and/or changing this project in a manner that is beneficial for our pristine town, which includes all legal strategies leading this fight;
- Spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal counsel costs to defend this matter with the hopes of stopping and/or altering the project;
- To *continue* to hold publicly posted Selectmen's meetings, at different times, throughout each month in order to listen to and answer questions from citizens;
- Being willing to meet with concerned citizens *in person* and *one-on-one*, at the town hall should there be additional questions or comments.

In closing, there is no duty more important to us, the Newington Selectmen, than the safety of our citizens and maintaining the picturesque, rural footprint of our beloved town. Thus, rest assured that we will continue to fight this project and do everything we can to fight for Newington. Moreover, when the results are made public from the SEC committee regarding this project, and if these results are less than favorable for Newington, then we will have more public meetings in order to determine how to move forward and respond accordingly.

Finally, please note the team has made substantial progress to date as follows:

- The power lines will be placed underground for Hannah Lane, Frink Farm, and Gundalow Landing
- About \$120,000 has been proposed to be given to the town for placing land into conservation. This will be controlled by the Department of Environmental Services and sent to Newington if we have a qualifying project
- It is understood that the SEC has ordered \$20,000 to be granted for use by the Board of Selectmen for impacts to historical resources
- Transition towers changed from 3 poles at 90 feet each to a single 90 foot pole at the Flynn pit, the Frink Farm, and on the back side of Hannah Lane
- The Flynn pit transition pole “underground to overhead pole” is set back from Little Bay Rd. about 400’ and the right of way was reduced from 100’ wide to 25’ plus another 25’ (for construction purposes only)
- The right of way through Gundalow Landing was reduced from 100’ wide to 25’ plus 25’ (for construction purposes only)
- All road crossings will be offered a vegetative screen to block the view looking down the power line right of way from roads
- It is understood that Eversource will work cooperatively with property owners regarding vegetative screenings (trees, shrubs)
- The Frinks will receive significant funding for various impacts to their farm plus a reduction to the right of way from 100’ to 25’ plus another 25’ for construction and maintenance purposes
- It is understood that the concrete mattresses at the shore line will be constructed using dye to match the surrounding shore line, making them less noticeable
- The project proposes that the existing 34.5 kv lines in the existing right of way corridor will be removed from Gundalow Landing to Fox Point Rd.
- The project proposes that the existing, aging power lines and poles along parts of Fox Point Rd., Nimble Hill Rd., and Little Bay Rd. will be replaced.

Sincerely,

Newington Board of Selectmen
Ted Connors, Chair
Ken Latchaw
Michael Marconi