



## TOWN OF GROTON

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## TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE

### Officers

*Chair* John Giger, G-D School Committee  
*Vice Chair* Peter Morrison, Cons. Comm.  
*Secretary* John Llodra, Citizen at Large

### Members

Peter Cunningham, Selectman  
John Petropoulos, Selectman  
Kevin Kelly, GELD Manager  
Dennis Eklof, Citizen at Large

### Advisors

Mark Haddad, Town Manager  
Steel McCurdy, Fire Chief  
Takashi Tada (Cons. Comm. Alternate)

Meeting Date: August 18, 2014  
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton  
Members: Kevin Kelly, Dennis Eklof, John Llodra, John Giger, Peter Morrison, Peter Cunningham, John Petropoulos (arrived late)  
Advising Members: Mark Haddad, Takashi Tada, Steel McCurdy (arrived late)  
Others: Michelle Collette, Carole Bouchard, Nick Miller (affected homeowner)  
Handouts: Agenda,  
Draft minutes August 4, 2014,  
May 15, 2014 MMWEC letter to NE States Committee on Electricity,  
July 29, 2014 MMWEC letter to NE States Committee on Electricity

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Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm.

Dennis Eklof updated the group regarding the Lunenburg Pipeline Forum. John Llodra also attended. Dennis Eklof stated that it was not very informative as it was more of an overview. Representative Sheila Harrington attended and agreed with Dennis Eklof that it lacked substance. Michelle Collette attended and she reported that the Lunenburg forum lacked the civility that the Town of Groton presentation from Kinder Morgan had. The loss of control of the meeting in Lunenburg meant, among other things, there was less opportunity for informative questions and answers. John Llodra commented that Kinder, Morgan's stated processes for approaching homeowners regarding its surveying did not match up with his personal knowledge of how homeowners have been approached. Group agreed that actual in-the-field interactions need to be matched up with Kinder, Morgan's stated approach. Carole Bouchard offered that she believed that Kinder, Morgan representatives essentially took over the meeting that was designed to be a community forum and that Chamber of Commerce representatives may share that perception.

Several Massachusetts politicians and elected officials have announced their opposition to the pipeline.

John Giger reviewed the agenda and commented that Jack Petropoulos stated toward the end of the previous meeting that the committee may be floundering in its focus. John Giger noted that he was comfortable with the first two meetings not being so focused but that he agreed that the committee needed to start zeroing in on its priorities and approaches. John Giger shared a list of five goals that track Selectmen's charge for the committee:

1. Understand all options relative to the installation of a High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas through the Town of Groton.
2. Identify critical milestones concerning the permitting of such a Pipeline.
3. Formulate a strategy to recommend to the Board of Selectmen on addressing issues related to this proposed Pipeline and then help execute said strategy.

4. Assist the Board of Selectmen in educating the public on all issues related to the installation of a High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas through the Town of Groton. The Working Group shall regularly report to all media outlets in the Town of Groton and surrounding communities and hold public meetings at critical milestones in the project
5. Work with our State and Federal Representatives as well as regional interests groups, such the regional group being formed by the Town of Pepperell to protect the interests of the Town of Groton.

Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 might be tasked with two members each and Item 2 might be assigned as many as three members. The initial report to the committee may need to be as soon as two weeks out from the initial assignment date. Peter Cunningham offered that there are so many directions that could be pursued and so much new information coming out daily. He noted that the Selectmen at some point will want to be advised about its options and recommended courses of action. (Chief Steel McCurdy entered the meeting.)

The committee needs to decide how to release information whether it is via press releases or the Town website. John Llodra asked whether there has been outreach to the state officials. Peter Cunningham spoke with Rep. Sheila Harrington today who set up a meeting with state transportation officials. State transportation officials are not opposed to using state rights of way on public roads. The Mass Turnpike may be more complicated as a route because as a federal road, the state does not have full charge of the permissions. (Jack Petropoulos entered the meeting.)

There is going to be an increase in gas infrastructure at the end of the day per Dennis Eklof. Depending on the size of the pipeline and the uses of the gas (domestic or for export) perhaps the Spectra proposal with a different route could be the winning plan. Peter Cunningham suggested that perhaps we could save time and energy as a committee by acknowledging the need for that increase in gas infrastructure.

Nick Miller, a self-identified affected Groton homeowner, commented that there are ways to deliver gas that may not be a pipeline so please do not equate need for gas with a need for the pipeline. Dennis Eklof took up this point and discussed possibility of using LNG if policies are restructured and the cost of gas for rate payers is increased. Or, Dennis Eklof said that an analysis of trade-offs has not been done and perhaps the eventual determined need could be half the size and cost of the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline. John Petropoulos advised staying away from saying that there is a need for the pipeline. He explained that such points can be a distraction as the matter can be endlessly argued and do not produce output that is of practical use to the Board of Selectmen.

John Giger agreed that there needs to be vertical effort to dig down into some issues while staying surface and 'horizontal' for some efforts such as liaising with key non Groton groups/organizations. Dennis Eklof said that his personal efforts in service to the goal of not building the pipeline rather than other goals such as mitigation for an approved pipeline. Jack Petropoulos asked that the group establish a list of objectives as distinguished from tactics.

Kevin Kelly stated that cost is important. These past few weeks with plentiful natural gas has driven the cost of electricity down to 3 cents per kilowatt hour. GELD sells its electricity for 12 cents per kilowatt hour, but must factor in the much higher cost of electricity in the cold winter months when electricity costs 16.5 cents per kilowatt hour. In the ten to twelve weeks that comprise our coldest weather, Kevin Kelly estimates the financial impact for the typical Groton household at an extra \$100 per month for the three coldest months. The tariff pass through (estimated at 0.1 cents per kilowatt hour) to cover the costs of the pipeline may be only \$9 per year to rate-paying households.

John Giger asked where the Committee wants to go. John Petropoulos asked to share his three objectives: (1) prevent Kinder, Morgan pipeline, (2) no pipeline in Town of Groton, (3) affect impact to Groton if Kinder, Morgan pipeline is approved. John Giger added in an objective to educate and disseminate information. John Giger stated that we can proceed along these lines or ask Selectmen to refine the committee's charge. John Llodra says that personally he would like to challenge the premise that got us in this situation. Perhaps the premise is not full, not complete and therefore flawed. It is not a victory in John Llodra's view if the committee's work is restricted in scope whereby the committee stops work if the pipeline were to bypass the Town of Groton. There are larger concerns than pipeline route. Kevin Kelly would like to work on item three which is to affect the impact to Groton if the pipeline is approved.

Nick Miller asked Kevin Kelly to explain the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) potential involvement with the pipeline. Kevin Kelly said that MMWEC as an entity cares about the cost of the

tariff whereas ISO New England is an entity structured so that it does not care about the cost. The current 500 million cubic feet of natural gas under contract by Kinder Morgan would be upsized to higher capacity. The contracts with the tariff would finance any bonds MMWEC would sell to finance the higher capacity. The municipal Ratepayers would not be involved. The bonded debt through MMWEC would be less costly because MMWEC is a non-profit tax exempt entity. MMWEC might own twenty-five to thirty percent of the project. Essentially, MMWEC would piggyback on the existing approved pipeline by taking a twenty year contract to be a part owner to supply natural gas for MMWEC's electrical generation. Kevin Kelly explained that MMWEC has a history of taking part ownership in many projects to defray costs. For example, MMWEC participated as a part owner in the Hydro Quebec Transmission Line.

John Giger asked if the committee would like to hear from Steve Keady, public affairs representative from Kinder, Morgan in Boston who is willing to come out. John Giger asked if the committee members would like Mr. Keady to come and address the committee. Dennis Eklof commented that he is not sure that the presentation and scope of the content would be worth the committee's time. Other committee members were noncommittal.

The committee's next meeting will be August 25th at 5:30 pm. John Giger asked committee members to continue to think about the issues and plan their input for next week's meeting. After the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, John Giger suggests a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday meeting schedule with meetings starting at 7 pm. The meeting schedule for September and October would be:

- Tuesday, September 16 at 7 pm
- Tuesday, September 30 at 7 pm (this happens to be a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month)
- Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm
- Tuesday, October 21 at 7 pm

*John Llodra moved to adjourn at 5:02 pm. Peter Cunningham seconded and motion carried 7:0.*

Notes by Fran Stanley