



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
Steele McCurdy, Fire Chief
Takashi Tada (Cons. Comm. Alternate)

Meeting Date: September 15, 2014
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton
Members: Kevin Kelly, Dennis Eklof, John Llodra, John Giger, Peter Morrison, John Petropoulos
Advising Members: Mark Haddad, Fire Chief Steele McCurdy, Takashi Tada
Handouts: Agenda
Draft letter produced at request of Board of Selectmen (4 pages)
Draft Grotonfest handout prepared by Dennis Eklof for Stop the Pipeline Coordinating Committee of Groton
New England's Energy Future and The Kinder Morgan Energy Direct Project: The Study that Needs To Be Done by Dr. Dennis Eklof (24 pages)
Draft minutes September 8, 2014
Frequently Asked Questions: The Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct Project by Dennis Eklof
Mitigation Focus Team's Ranked Objectives

Meeting convened at 5:30 pm. John Giger asked for review of the September 8th minutes

Kevin Kelly moved to approve the September 8th minutes as drafted. Peter Morrison seconded and motion carried 5:0 (Peter Cunningham absent, John Llodra abstained).

John Giger, for the Educate objective, took the group's webpage design decisions and put them into a format that will hopefully be workable for the Information Technology department to implement.

Review of Draft Letter

John Giger explained that the Board of Selectmen sent a request via Mark Haddad on Tuesday, September 9th. The request was for the Pipeline Working Group to produce a letter for the Board of Selectmen's signature to be sent to various elected officials and pipeline decision makers. With less than a week's turn-around time, the Evaluate focus team worked through the weekend to produce a four page letter (distributed) that references Dennis Ekloff's longer advocacy piece titled New England's Energy Future and The Kinder Morgan Energy Direct Project: The Study that Needs To Be Done. This draft needs to be reviewed and approved by the Pipeline Working Group before it is sent on to the Board of Selectmen.

Mark Haddad reflected that the final product needs to be cut down in size in order to encourage recipients to read the Town of Groton's letter. Mark Haddad recommended a letter that would be no more than two pages long and not have attachments or footnotes. John Giger responded that a letter that just says 'find another route' would be dismissed as only self-serving and so the focus team instead chose to draft a letter that addresses the big picture as well as we can with the data we have produced.

Kevin Kelly stressed that the letter as drafted does not represent his views. Peter Morrison recommended that any obvious bias be stripped from the letter so that the letter recipients do not overlook the merits of the Town's position. Kevin Kelly stated that if the attachment is used, then it will also need to be reviewed and potentially edited by this Committee.

John Giger exited the meeting at 5:50 pm to attend to another matter and turned the running of the meeting over to Vice Chair Peter Morrison. Peter Morrison led the group through a review of the draft letter. John Llodra pointed out the bolded and bulleted statements as the heart of the letter. The Committee started with those elements, revised them and added introductory and concluding sentences. The resulting document is as follows:

The Town of Groton has been studying the proposed Kinder Morgan project for several months. We understand that there are several alternatives being investigated to address New England's energy challenges.

The Kinder Morgan proposal does not represent the optimal solution for New England and the Town of Groton and therefore should be reconsidered. Instead, policy makers should immediately turn their focus to the many viable alternatives, including but not limited to: alternative paths for a Kinder Morgan project, competing pipeline projects by other companies, and/or other diverse energy supply options for New England's energy challenges.

Importantly, our conclusion is based on regional considerations, not just the concerns of Groton's residents and sensitive lands. We present a summary of these regional considerations below:

- Kinder Morgan's currently proposed path would cause substantial damage to protected and critically important land areas in Massachusetts.
- Alternative paths for the Kinder Morgan project exist, which could include existing utility rights of way and transportation corridors, and should be immediately and thoroughly evaluated as to their costs and the environmental benefits.
- Alternative pipeline proposals exist, and thus Kinder Morgan's project cannot be classified as the sole imperative.
- There is no single solution -- Kinder Morgan's or otherwise -- and the best solution to New England's energy challenges must include the implementation of many diverse measures including, but not limited to: expanding renewable and other supply options, pumped storage hydro, a firm liquefied natural gas supply, grid-level electricity storage technologies, and energy conservation and load shifting programs.

We the Town of Groton Board of Selectmen would respectfully request that you everything in your power to consider alternative proposals to the Kinder Morgan project.

Comments made during the letter drafting session included:

- Kevin Kelly reminded the Committee that the energy need goes well beyond peak demands. During last year's heating season, our region had insufficient supply every day for ten weeks.
- John Llodra reiterated that the Kinder Morgan NED project is not a critical need notwithstanding the region's need for increased supply.
- Dennis Eklof noted potential reconsideration by energy regulators as evidenced by a current Request for Response valued at \$250,000 to re-examine supply issues.
- Peter Morrison reported that John Giger has prepared a list of people who should receive the proposed Board of Selectmen letter.

- Kevin Kelly would prefer that the region maintain a diverse energy supply (beyond natural gas), but that regulators have trended away from coal and nuclear for example.
- Kevin Kelly observed that with Vermont Yankee's closure, Brayton Point is apt to stay open and run with large profits to owners until the region can increase its supply through a new pipeline or otherwise.
- Kevin Kelly noted that Spectra may have other prospective projects, but that its Atlantic Bridge project which is further along in the permitting process is already fully subscribed.

Kevin Kelly moved to approve the letter as drafted and forward the same to the Board of Selectmen. John Petropoulos seconded and motion carried 5:0 (John Giger and Peter Cunningham absent).

Focus Team Reports

For focus team MITIGATION, John Petropoulos reported on the two top proposals per their team's ranking process: (1) select less impactful routes; and (2) support alternative providers such as Spectra's not yet proposed pipeline that follows existing utility routes.

John Petropoulos continued with other proposals that would fall into the category of what to do if the pipeline is routed through Groton:

- (1) drill instead of trench;
- (2) homeowner assistance;
- (3) train emergency personnel; and
- (4) engineer alternative routes.

Dennis Ekloff will use his Hollis contacts to follow up on the value of the paid engineering to that town.

John Petropoulos is planning to attend the 2014 Pipeline Safety Trust conference to be held in November. He spoke with the group about whether to speak for the Pipeline Working Group or in his individual capacity. As Selectman and working group committee member, John Petropoulos is engaged in many aspects of the proposed pipeline project. As the goal from conference attendance is to collect information that will be helpful to the Town rather than disseminating information, John Petropoulos will speak as an individual.

Dennis Ekloff reported on the EVALUATE focus team. Grotonfest two-page flyer handed out. Dennis asked if Town can mail this document or another such flyer to residents. Mark Haddad explained that the Town of Groton cannot spend money that has the Town recommending a position or taking a position. Also, Kevin Kelly reminded the group that the Committee needs to review and approve any documents that are issued by the Committee. Dennis Ekloff acknowledged that all of these ideas are subject to the municipality's legal constraints.

Dennis Ekloff put together an expanded FAQs document that the Committee may want to review at some point. Kevin Kelly offered one factual correction. Last winter was not the coldest in decades. Rather, the month of January 2014 was two degrees below average temperature and the month of February 2014 was dead on average in temperature.

Dennis suggested other ideas such as posting sample letters and asking members of the public to endorse them. Dennis wonders if the Town of Groton should have another Town Meeting. Mark Haddad commented that convening a Town Meeting costs \$5,000. John Petropoulos noted that the Town can hold many public meetings without spending \$5,000. Peter Morrison said we can hold information sessions. Jack said we can advertise in the newspapers and observed that it is good to keep the community posted.

EDUCATION focus team. Kevin Kelly referenced the Wall Street Journal article that was distributed to Committee members by email. This article is notable because it shows the technological advances of recent years. Specifically, we are getting twice the production in oil and natural gas per rig than the country obtained four years ago. The recovery abilities have increased tremendously, but as John Llodra noted that the costs are not often covered. Dennis Ekloff said that the cost estimates for recovery are all over the map.

Peter Morrison reminded Committee members about the Wednesday mandatory training on open meeting law requirements. The meeting is to be held at the Groton Country Club at 7 pm on September 17th.

Peter Morrison and Kevin Kelly will not attend next week's meeting. Takashi Tada can fulfill his alternate duties by taking Peter Morrison's place on the Committee next week. John Llodra will miss the September 29 meeting.

Kevin Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. Dennis Ekloff seconded and the motion carried 5:0 (John Giger and Peter Cunningham absent).

Notes by Fran Stanley.