



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE

Members

Chair John Giger, G-D School Committee
Vice Chair Peter Morrison, Cons. Comm.
Secretary John Llodra, Citizen at Large
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: October 6, 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
Advising Members: Mark Haddad, Takashi Tada
Others: Joshua Degen
Handouts: Agenda
Draft minutes September 22, 2014
Landowner's Guide to Pipelines: Safety, Responsibilities, Your Rights by Pipeline Safety Trust
FERC Intervention Process by Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
Natural Gas Markets and "Conventional Wisdom," Will We Ever Learn?
by Dennis Eklof

Overview of Web Pages to be associated with Town of Groton pipeline icon

Meeting convened at 5:30 pm. John Giger asked for review of the September 22, 2014 draft minutes.

Peter Cunningham moved to approve the September 22, 2014 minutes as revised. Peter Morrison seconded and motion carried 5:0 (Kevin Kelly abstained; John Petropoulos absent).

Focus Team Reports

For focus team MITIGATE, Dennis Eklof met with the Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition (NMGPC) and learned that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts contract has been awarded for the \$250,000 needs assessment for a new natural gas pipeline. Dennis Eklof stated that he is unfamiliar with the winning bidder, but the company's credentials looked relevant. Dennis Eklof will follow up by reviewing contract materials to see if the scope of work for the winning contractor looks balanced and calculated to produce a useful work product.

John Llodra reported efforts to obtain ISO NE meeting minutes. John Llodra will be collecting those public minutes for the Committee's review.

EDUCATE focus team. John Giger read the Pipeline Safety Trust's Landowner's Guide to Pipelines: Safety, Responsibilities, Your Rights and found the guidebook informative.

For the Town's website, John Giger distributed a mock-up of webpage content. He explained that the goal is to link people to information that already exists and not engage in rewriting available information. Further, another goal of the Pipeline content is transparency, allowing the public to see the work of the Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Committee members commented that the content of the website may not always be accurate and reliable as the referenced documents sometimes state opinions as facts and are sometimes factually incorrect. In the form of a disclaimer or other warning, the group agreed that some other language – relevant perhaps – may be a

better descriptor that side steps the quality concerns. Kevin Kelly followed up with a question about whether all documents and electronic links can get on the Town's website.

John Llodra observed that public sentiments 'against the pipeline' can be simplistic if some people are not aware that the Northeast Direct project is not the only pipeline in question. There may be other pipeline projects (such as Spectra) and other pipeline paths that help address the natural gas shortage without the damage to sensitive conservation areas that this Northeast Direct project entails. John Llodra will look at the pipeline page FAQs and see if he can compose an FAQ entry that addresses this point.

John Giger commented that the NED project's proposed crossing of the Groton Dunstable High School land may be the second longest stretch of pipeline in the Groton crossing.

Kevin Kelly reported that National Grid rates for electric were just raised to 24.24 cents per kilowatt hour. John Llodra asked if this price represents National Grid's standard offer rate and Kevin Kelly said yes. For two years, competitive suppliers could undercut the National Grid standard offer rate. However, last winter many of these suppliers lost money trying to beat that rate. National Grid is just passing through the auction rates which are about 17 cents in January and February, fortunately GELD is not in that position. Today's rates for electricity on a warm windy day were a bit over 2 cents per kilowatt hour. GELD just raised its rates to 13 cents and next month will raise the rates another half cent.

Dennis Eklof commented that more people are going to be in favor of a plan that offers affordable, lower electric bills. Kevin Kelly responded that he anticipates that many Massachusetts seniors and those on fixed incomes will not be able to pay their electric bills when those bills double this winter.

Peter Morrison heard from Richard Hewitt and he would like to bring the Chair of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to present to Groton's Conservation Commission. Unclear whether the Conservation Commission will hear new information or previously reviewed information. John Giger asked Takashi Tada to inform the group when the date and time of this presentation is set.

Natural Gas Markets and "Conventional Wisdom," Will We Ever Learn? by Dennis Eklof. Dennis Eklof introduced this opinion piece and distributed it. He is submitting it to the Boston Globe for possible publication. Also, Dennis Eklof distributed the North Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCG) article on the intervention process. Group discussed interest in having Groton's regional planning group, the Montachusett Regional Planning Authority produce Groton GIS (geographic information system) maps that are similar to the work done by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for Pepperell and its other affected member towns. If such a map is produced, the Committee would like it added to the Pipeline webpage. The group reiterated the point from earlier conversations that the GIS work product would be derived from the Kinder Morgan proposal but not the actual Kinder Morgan proposal. This GIS work product may contain errors, but it would also provide greater detail on the path of the pipeline near houses, driveways, roads than the public has seen to date.

Kevin Kelly commented that if Marcellus gas becomes expensive, then New England will be paying even more for its energy. Even so, Dennis Eklof said that he is concerned that conventional wisdom in this case may be wrong and we would be well advised to re-examine premises before massive expenditures are made on certain infrastructure.

Peter Cunningham reported on contact with Kinder Morgan representatives who were not enamored of the Spectra Energy proposal. Long term, Kevin Kelly said that some studies say that 5 billion cubic feet per day is the need and so there is a possibility that both the Kinder Morgan and Spectra Energy proposals will be approved and built.

Fran Stanley was asked to collect the recent Board of Selectmen letter and the 36 person addressee list [directed to key policy makers] and distribute that information to the Committee.

Educational events. The group agreed that it wanted to be proactive about getting information out to the public. In addition to the webpage, Peter Cunningham said that the Selectmen can use their televised announcements portion of their weekly meetings to disseminate information. John Giger requested for the Committee to be allotted more lead time to respond if the Board of Selectmen asks the Committee to engage in certain educational events. John Giger commented that his view of the Committee is that its role is to advise the

Selectmen. Peter Cunningham offered to speak to the Town's pipeline activity at this evening's Selectmen's meeting.

Intervenor status. A \$50,000 Warrant Article proposal for retaining attorney for intervenor was not supported by Board of Selectmen and will NOT be on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Peter Cunningham asked if other regional groups are planning to intervene. Dennis Eklof said he may intervene personally. He does not know if other regional groups are hiring an attorney to intervene. No one can intervene yet as there is not a formal filing. Intervening just gets you access to all of the information. Costs ensue if an intervenor produces documents as there is a standing requirement to send copies to all of the other parties.

The group discussed its next meeting date which will be Monday, October 27th unless Fall Town Meeting is continued to a second night (in which case there would be a conflict).

The Committee agreed that a short presentation to the Fall Town Meeting would be good to do. Peter Morrison recommended one slide showing the pipeline page's red pipeline valve to get the message across. John Giger and Peter Cunningham will meet to plan the group's one or two slides.

Dennis Eklof added that he has been invited to attend a Tyngsborough public meeting when Tyngsborough will be deciding about whether they will take resolution against the pipeline.

Peter Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Kevin Kelly seconded and motion carried 6:0 (John Petropoulos absent).

Notes by Fran Stanley.