

Warrant and Minutes

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING JUNE 30, 2014

**Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450**

Beginning Monday, June 30, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT and MINUTES
JUNE 30, 2014**

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator

Robert L. Gosselin, Sr.

Board of Selectmen:

Peter S. Cunningham, Member
Joshua A. Degen, Chairman
Anna Eliot, Vice-Chairman
Jack G. Petropoulos, Member
Stuart M. Schulman, Member

Finance Committee:

Jay M. Prager, Chairman
Gary Green, Vice-Chairman
Joseph Crowley
Robert Hargraves
David Manugian
Bud Robertson
Steven Webber

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Michael F. Bouchard

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM on June 30, 2014 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided.

A quorum of 150 voters is required for this Special Town Meeting. At 7:07 PM, 155 voters were present. At 7:30 PM, 290 voters were present.

The warrant contains a single article asking the Meeting to vote on a non-binding resolution. Town Meeting is a legislative body and can govern within its boundaries. The Town cannot compel legislative representatives to vote a certain way. A non-binding resolution expresses the will of the Town.

Motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant. The vote was unanimous to waive the reading of the warrant.

Motion (Rena Swezey)

I move that debate at the microphone be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: 2/3rds Majority

Vote of Motion to Limit Debate: Passed by 2/3rds Majority

Middlesex, ss.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the thirtieth day of June, 2014 at Seven O'Clock in the evening, to consider the following:

ARTICLE 1: NON-BINDING RESOLUTION

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts:

Resolution Opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts

WHEREAS, a proposed High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas may come through Groton and our neighboring communities, en route to Dracut, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leak, rupture or devastating explosion causing untold damage to property and lives; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline may potentially destroy forests, wetlands, conservation land and farmland, and would pass beneath the Nashua River, and require maintenance in perpetuity of a 50 foot right- of-way through the possible use of herbicides; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline may adversely affect property values, adversely affect residents' livelihood and otherwise may negatively impact the integrity of the town's bucolic character; and

WHEREAS, the cost of said pipeline may require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff, as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("TGP", a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), potentially making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, our energy challenges are better addressed through investments in energy conservation measures as well as green and renewable energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed pipeline route was chosen in a private, closed process so that there has been no chance for open, public discussion or debate of alternate routing possibilities and tradeoffs; and

WHEREAS, federal eminent domain powers will be used to forcibly take pipeline easements from unwilling landowners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline route crosses the grounds of the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and threatens the safety of students, faculty and facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the people of Groton, Massachusetts:

1. Hereby call on our Selectmen to stand in opposition to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.'s Northeast Expansion pipeline and not allow it within town borders;
2. Oppose any pipeline that potentially threatens the safety of any Groton students, faculty or school facilities; and
3. Hereby request that our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take any such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well-being and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources.

or take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

ARTICLE 1: NON-BINDING RESOLUTION

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to adopt the non-binding resolution opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts as printed in the Warrant for the June 30, 2014 Special Town Meeting.

Moved and Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- Mr. Hewitt thanked the Board of Selectmen for calling this Special Town Meeting. His presentation was informative, and included:
 - a call to join 15 other towns to force a debate on all options to meet energy needs.
 - a description of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process and the power which it can award to applicants.
 - the role of Mass DEP
 - Advanced timetable for Kinder Morgan to apply to FERC (September, 2014)
 - A description of the major proposed route and 6 lateral extensions
 - A discussion on landowner compensation
 - safety aspects of the pipeline
 - a call for thorough vetting of alternate pipeline routes
 - a call to action to communicate with our legislators
- Mr. Futterman of the Nashua River Watershed Association presented
 - Information describing the impact of the proposed pipeline on two of the largest Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the State
 - The proposed pipeline will pass through 12 miles of ACEC
 - The proposed pipeline will also pass through 2 miles of medium and high yield aquifers
- Mr. O'Reilly presented economic aspects of the proposal, including

- A study commissioned by NESCOE stated that a low demand scenario would resolve a peak demand problem. It was stated, however, that NESCOR favored a greenfields pipeline and refused the low demand scenario
- Alternatives to minimize risk and consistent with environmental objectives and compliance with state law would include multiple efforts:
 - Gas and electric market reforms to minimize economic spikes
 - Improvement of energy efficiencies
 - LNG utilization
 - Renewable energy utilization
 - Combined heat and power facilities
 - Renewable thermal
 - Demand – response
 - Energy storage
- Together these alternatives
 - Solve the demand issue
 - Are safer
 - Are cheaper
 - Are environmentally responsible
- A statement from State Representative Sheila Harrington was read. She has garnered legislative support to petition the Department of Revenue to evaluate the Route 2 corridor as a pipeline route.
- Brooks Lyman offered an amendment

MOTION: I move to amend the main motion by inserting after the word “meeting” the following:

“and by adding a fourth resolve the reads:

4 Further request that our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials enact legislation and take any such other actions as are necessary to ensure that this and any future gas and oil pipelines be located in, on or under existing utility easements and Interstate and similar major highways and active railroad right-of-ways.”

Moved and Seconded

Quantum: Majority

- Mr. O'Reilly disagreed with the motion to amend in that it does not encourage alternatives to pipelines

Vote on Motion to Amend: Defeated

VOTE on Article 1 – Main Motion: Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION to Dissolve the Special Town Meeting

Moved and Seconded

Passed by Unanimous vote to Dissolve the Meeting at 8:06 PM

Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 9th Day of June in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen.

Joshua A. Degen
Joshua A. Degen, Chairman

Anna Eliot
Anna Eliot, Vice Chairman

Stuart M. Schulman
Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk

Peter S. Cunningham
Peter S. Cunningham, Member

John G. Petropoulos
John G. Petropoulos, Member

OFFICERS RETURN
Groton, Middlesex

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have this day notified the Inhabitants to assemble at the time, place, and for the purpose mentioned as within directed. Personally posted by Constable.

Constable

Date Duly Posted

Town of Groton
Board of Selectmen
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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