

DEERFIELD PLANNING BOARD  
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MAY 9, 2012

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT: Board members Fred McGarry, Kate Hartnett, William Perron, Lisa Wolford, Peter Schibbelhute. Secretary Jane Boucher

Chair Fred McGarry called the meeting to order at 7PM.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST

William Perron moved and Lisa Wolford seconded to approve the manifest for a time sheet for Jane Boucher ( 12 1/2 hours).  
Voted in favor.

NORTHERN PASS

Representing Northern Pass were Anne Bartosewilz, Project Director; Laurel Brown, Communications Mgr. for NPT; Martin Murray Sr. Corporate News Representative; Brian Bosse, Project Manager; Tom True, Sr. Project Manager, Coler & Colantonio.

Chair McGarry said that representatives from NP will make a short presentation followed by questions from the Board , followed by questions from the audience. He said that each person will be permitted to ask one question and one follow up question.

Anne Bartosewilz addressed the meeting noting that the project was started one year ago. She added that this is a work in progress and there is no final design at this time and they may not have answers to all the questions.

Ms. Bartosewilz explained that the plan is to have a direct current line from Canada to Franklin and from Franklin to Deerfield. The intention is to bring low carbon, low cost renewable energy. The length of the project is 180 miles long. She said that a portion of the line from the Canadian border that no transmission line exists.

She commented that today 75% of electricity comes from fossil fuel and it is their responsibility to make sure it works right.

Ms. Bartosewilz said that Deerfield is a significant interconnection point with 7 miles of existing line on rights of way. She added that the intent is to look at everyone's concerns however they have yet started the process of coming to communities. This will be done after the filing is done which will probably be another year. She said that there are 31 communities to consult.

In closing Ms. Bartosewilz noted that Laurel Brown had packets of information to hand out.

Fred McGarry noted that Edison was an advocated of DC current and said that you couldn't transmit DC current any great distance without having numerous generating stations. He questioned why can DC current be transmitted long distances now, when you couldn't do it before.

Anne Bartosewilz replied that DC does connect lines between two countries. Brian Bosse said that it is much more efficient, when a long distance is involved to use DC rather than AC.

Lisa Wolford questioned use of the term economic or reliability to describe the project.

Anne Bartosewilz replied that reliability project will be used to maintain a reliable system.

Lisa Wolford questioned what the consequences would be to NH if not permitted.

Ms. Bartosewilz said that what would we do without power sources. This will not cost customers anything to build and lower prices.

Laurel Brown other plants in NH are not regulated and this project will stabilize the market.

Kate Hartnett said that , at some point in time, she would like to revisit the discussion of reduction of green house gases.

At this time Chair McGarry asked the audience if anyone had any questions.

Questions asked:

. Mr. Chandell questioned if hydro power was more economic.  
. Ms. Bartosewilz replied it is more economical because it is a renewable resource.

. Jeanne Menard asked what benchmarks will they be looking at, when they return, to make decisions on.

.Anne Bartosewilz replied that over the next year they will host informational meetings . Their final design plan has not been established.

.Gina Neeley said that they have been unsuccessful in selling their home, abutting a power line right of way.

. Anne Bartosewilz said that was a hard issue and that they will keep people informed as to what progress is being made.

.Laura questioned the use of underground lines.  
.Anne Bartosewilz replied that underground cable is far more expensive to install and repair.

. Peter Lion questioned the safety of living next to a power line.

. Ann Bartosewilz said that several experts have done studies and thus far there is no evidence that there is any danger nor have any guidelines been put in place.

.Ericka Heilman questioned if there was going to be any resources for the town.

. Ms. Bartosewilz replied there will be no profit share for the towns.

. Ron Charland said that currently there are 50 foot towers and questioned if the towers will be up to 138 feet in Deerfield.

. Anne Bartosewilz said that currently there are some over 100 feet in Deerfield. She noted that this will be discussed when more studies are done . Choices of structure design and visual simulations will be looked at.

. Steve Neeley said that currently the right of way is 150 feet from his home. He voiced concern regarding widening the right of way.

. Ann Bartosewilz said that no design has been finalized and further discussion will be held with land owners.

. Donna questioned why PSNH has been working on making easements wider on right of ways.

. Anne Bartosewilz said that no work is being done by Northern Pass. Work is being done by PSNH to comply with regulations and they are doing some tree clearing.

.Mike O'Neil said that a great deal of money will be paid to PSNH

. Anne Bartosewilz replied that whenever PSNH leases land and money will go back to the customer who paid.

. Mike O'Neil questioned if they have every considered buying homes that will be negatively affected by this project.

.Ms. Bartosewilz this project is looking at distance from the Canadian border. She said that when they choose a right of way they always look at how many people they will affect as well as impact to homes. She said that purchasing homes was not her issue to decide and she will look into it further.

.Sara asked if a map of Deerfield was available showing the rights of way.

Anne Bartosewilz noted that a map was available on the web

site.

.Harriet Cady noted that population in NH has gone down and questioned how they project the demand.

.Ann Bartosewilz replied that they have several agencies that study the demand for power .

. Madeline Foukes referred to the impact on views as well as individual home owners living next to right of ways.

. Ms. Bartosewilz replied that she does not have an answer, but will look into it and when they return will address the issue.

.Kate Hartnett questioned the site evaluation process and how they seek , hear, and evaluate this information.

.Anne Bartosewilz replied that their involvement differs from town to town. Some towns invite them to public meetings, where others prefer to meet privately. Open houses are held and they like to speak with individual landowners.

Laurel Brown explained that during the SEC approval process Town boards and Regional Planning Commissions may also hold public hearings to provide additional information.

.Chair Fred McGarry noted there had been some discussion as to whether the Town could pass ordinances relating to height of towers and requiring underground wires, it was said that the Site Evaluation Committee had full and total power over siting of energy facilities.

.Steve Wilson questioned why are we relying on Hydro Quebec and bringing in power from Canada.

.Anne Bartosewilz said that natural resources are not as available in NE as they are in Canada.

.Bruce Menowar commented that Hydro Quebec has left a trail of destruction.

.It was questioned as to who sits on the Site Evaluation Commission.

.Laurel Brown replied that State Agencies appoint the positions.

.Ericka Heilman questioned how our sub station figure into the plan and does the line have to come through Deerfield.

.Anne Bartosewilz replied that they are looking at a variety of studies and ways to get from point A to point B.

.Mike O'Neil asked why PSNH does not purchase property.

.Anne Bartosewilz will check into that issue.

.Ron Charland questioned has the company considered natural gas.

.Anne Bartosewilz said they cannot, it is not allowed by law.

.Lisa Wolford observed that the project is not acceptable to Deerfield siting that is unattractive and visually obtrusive.

.Jeanne Menard felt the project is totally irresponsible and will make the town dependent in a negative way.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Boucher  
Pending approval by the Planning Board