

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. The following members were present.

Clifton Snuffer, Chairman
James Stanton, Vice Chairman
David Salvatore, Clerk
Mark Gallivan
Eric Kraus

Also present: Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant

SPECTRA ENERGY PRESENTATION

Mr. Snuffer called the meeting to order at 7pm. Will have a presentation by Jon Bonsall, representative from Algonquin gas. Frank Gesner, Right of Way group, responsible with interactions with land owners. Presentation, then we will have questions from Board, then the audience. Walpole Residents first, then anyone out of Walpole next, by the end we will have a better understanding.

Mr. Bonsall gave a PowerPoint presentation. *(Access Northeast, 17 page document)* He gave an overview, timeline involved, project benefits, alignment we are looking at. Study corridor. Best possible route with least impact to residents and environment. No permits have been filed. They do expect pre filing with FERC in Nov timeframe. They are in the sharing mode and appreciate the opportunity.

Access northeast, Eversource,

AGT is a subsidiary. Interstate gas pipeline system regulated by Fed government. The map showing on the slide is the system, Slide#3. It goes offshore in Weymouth Mass.

The Algonquin Gas Transmission

They own the pipeline and transport gas on behalf to customers, they do not own the gas and a fee is charged to the customers to transport on their behalf. Natural gas compliments wind and solar fleet whose output varies due to weather. Gas fired power generators, with quick start and ramp up abilities will be vital in picking up slack when output drops from those units or when there is increased demand. Natural gas constraints in New England hinder gas fired power generation during peak times and cold winters. Many people know constraints on the interstate pipelines during the peak heating during the winter. Sometimes they must turn to coal which increases air emissions.

Showed a map of proposed facilities, not limited to Mass, Each block shown on the map is work that will be done. They would build adjacent to the existing pipeline in Walpole. There will be a LNG storage facility, located in Acushnet Mass. Approximately 60% of generators connect to the system.

Mr. Snuffer questioned if it is the objective to stay within existing easements. Mr. Bonsall stated yes if not right next to. In terms of Mass showed the portion that goes thru Walpole, from Medway all the over to Canton. It looks separate, W. Boylston lateral, they connect. It is two separate lines.

Address the existing pipeline constraint, not sufficient capacity to the get the gas needed. Most saw a 40% increase to the customers. A number of facilities are closing. The Pilgrim Nuclear power station is retiring by 2019. Loosing a non gas firing is not good. Access NE is designed to maximize. Fit that specific need in Mass. More than 95% of the solution will use existing pipeline, utility corridors, roadway corridors and natural gas infrastructure minimizing environmental and community effects. Hope to stabilize electricity rates and save the area billions in energy costs.

This will save 1 billion dollars to rate savers.

The map on page 7 shows where the electric generators are located and 60% come from gases fired that connect to the system.

During off peak season it would be stored at the LNG storage. In addition because there is so much fuel oil burned over the last few years. Last two years we have used more fuel oil. Natural gas is a lot cleaner than fuel oil.

The map on page 8 shows the Massachusetts facilities.

Jon reviewed the proposed mass facilities as outlined on page 9 Walpole is part of the Q-1 expansion which begins in Medway and ends in Canton consisting of 21 miles of a 30 inch pipe.

The overall sense of timeline shown on page 10, that FERC will take over one year. Construction would not take place until 2018. The pre filing is the time to listen to concerns prior to the formal application is filed. You benefit from what you learn. Vent issues, gather and try to respond. Hope to answer questions raised. That time the process starts a new.

He talked about the environmental permits and approvals needed from both Federal and the state. These are shown on page 11. The local community would involve Conservation Commission, notice of intent.

Safety it is the priority for them and they focus on that. There are measures put in during construction. Operate the system in a safe manner.

Mr. Kraus questioned how do you track safety? Do they use TR1? Mr. Bonsall noted the safety of engineers and for those working the lines is very important. Mr.

Bonsall will have to get back to him. It is not a form or process that applies. We do regular inspections. Diagnostic tools. The life expectancy is endless.

Mr. Snuffer suggested one thing he would recommend going forward, is that they garner that data within the community the Attorney General is looking to see that information. Mr. Bonsall noted that a lot of what the AG is looking at is the local distribution system. He we will get the Board additional information

Frank Gesser in looking at a study corridor, existing pipeline has been in place 20-30 years, adjacent where possible to existing, there has been development. They do not have a definitive location, they may have deviate to our ROW and go to the other side, to avoid being close to homes. Pipeline 5' from the outside of the existing electrical line. We have had the first round of meetings with homeowners. Good discussion along the route.

Mr. Snuffer wanted to know how many feet within pipeline did you notify. They notified within 300'. They will meet with homeowners again with better plans; this is not the final line. They do follow corridors and following the exiting Algonquin. The new pipeline will be located within 50' right of way and need additional work space. That is the line between now and Jan/Feb should have a better map. They stay off property unless we have permission.

They use GPS and if they have to cut trees on residential properties, they have to start carrying stuff out, they limit. The wetland flags will be removed. If the property owner asks for notice prior to. They might want to be present that is a condition of the permit. Restriction list. Before any survey work, we go over the restrictions. We want them to adhere to what we promised.

Mr. Kraus understands the goal and what this proposes to do. What is the benefit to Walpole for this project?

Mr. Bonsall stated the project addresses the constraints on the system and impact that has had with regard to electric rates. The benefit will flow to the town, lower electric rate, not have to pay the 40% surcharge. We will have gas supply available, that will flow to the residents. One issue is the reliability of the electric system. We came close two winters of almost running out of fuel. We are on the edge. The enhancement will benefit. We pay taxes on the value of the pipeline. Walpole is already receiving money from existing, it could double. Town owned parcels we would need to negotiate. Impacts and additional discussion with community.

Mr. Kraus has a pipeline running thru his backyard, how do you determine the deduction of house value. Frank, we hire an independent appraiser, they will go out and look at the values along the entire length of the project. From there they take that number, we believe the impact could be. We will begin negotiations based on that, look at Assessors numbers, where is the pipe in relation to the property, look at

all that. Calculating value. We begin negotiations, with each property owner, we provide those facts. If we are not able to, we will hire another independent appraiser whom will meet with property owner.

Mr. Stanton, you would negotiate with private property owners, would be in an area where you would have to deviate from the easement or outside or both. Frank both. Have plans showing exiting lines what is new space and work space. We would not rebuy what they already own. If they damage the lawn, shrubs etc. We catalog and that is worked as part of damages. Mr. Stanton, do you know how many properties. Frank No, come Jan/Feb he should have a better idea.

Mr. Stanton asked if they have worked in Walpole. Frank yes.

Mr. Gallivan questioned what the duration the land is opened and exposed is. Frank if we started in May and have all access, a good 6 months, that does not mean the property is open for 6 months. Probably a street 2-3 weeks tops. Explained the process.

Mr. Salvatore referred to page 5 of the PowerPoint presentation. How can you have more capacity when the other sections are not be updated. We have been removing the 26" and putting in the 42. There are different projects going on. The 26" being replaced with 42" and the line in Walpole is 24", we are proposing a 30" line to the exiting 24". When you come to Mass you have 24" line, showed areas where the placement is taking place. All the 26" will be replaced. DS when you took out the 26" and replaced it with the 42 did you put in the same place. Frank yes. That was the main line.

Mr. Snuffer the town is grateful for coming here to give us a preview. We know you are looking for us to accept this plan. When will that be ready to ask or do you need our approval. Mr. Bonsall stated this is an interstate project, this is a federal project, we encourage you to engage in the process, local approvals is Con Com, and DPW and Engineering depts.. We do not come before Planning or other agencies for approval. The natural gas act, that is the Federal regulatory commission. They will issue a certificate. Mr. Snuffer your job is to work within the town to be sure there is an understanding of what the project is. Walpole is a sole Source aquifer community, not part of the MWRA system, what precautions do you take that will ensure our water safety. Mr. Bonsall responded the environmental folks will spend a great deal of time, that will minimize impacts and your drinking water, you should raise that with FERC. Water supply is not jeopardized. We will look at that, if you are not satisfied. We have certain construction we do. We are very familiar with the issues with protecting the water supply.

Mr. Snuffer when we talk about costs to ratepayer. Is the ratepayer paying for it? Mr. Bonsall explained the 2 primary customers capacity are Eversource and national grid, the companies will contract and file with mass DPU. They have to show a

public benefit and will look at do the taxpayers benefit from this project. The electric rates will be much more stable.

Frank-when you talk about protecting water, we will ask homeowners if they have a well or septic system.

Mr. Kraus noted some of the increase from last year was shortage of gas. Mr. Bonsall noted there will be a real savings. Mr. Gresser stated the working hours, try not to disrupt property owners, cut across driveways, we maintain the driveways at all times, so they can get in and out of driveways, dust control. We provide a contract with a restriction list.

Mr. Stanton explained he has been supplied with info from neighbors, read about methane and how potent it is. Mr. Gresser explained the pipes are made of hard carbon strength steel. Can they be damaged, we buried a section and had a backhoe come in and beat on it and it did nothing to it. The pipelines are coated, poly coating, protects from corrosion. It is protected and we have internal inspections. It can measure a number of things, if they find something they go out and excavate to see if there is something wrong with the line. It was explained that before the pipeline is put into service it is tested. Held for 8 hours. It is tested for leaks. A lot of the statistics are related to the local lines. A lot of them are the old cast iron.

Mr. Gallivan questioned if there has been any work done on the pipeline in Walpole in the last 5 years, how about the entire state of mass. Mr. Gresser is aware of one leak in 1974 in NJ. Third party backhoe strike our line. In Westwood a small line was hit, gas was released. No damage to property.

The LNG will be new tanks, do not exist, Eversource own 100 acres of land and that will be part of the approval. They would not be exporting gas out of New England. There is not the gas there to export. That is not part of this project.

Walpole residents first:

Bill Hamilton, 45 Eldor Drive- you have a minimum trench of 3 feet is that above the pipe? Frank yes, the width can be 6-15 feet depending on the soil.

Mr. Hamilton is concerned the Aquifer area, very sandy, do you water the trench when you dig it. Frank will put in hay bales to screen any sediments. When it is in a wetland area, we are looking at type of construction technics. BH I saw the map of the 24" pipeline goes between DPW yard and water , close to spring brook wells. Frank, we may have to move the pipe. Mr. Hamilton urged the BOS have a joint mtg with the Con Com so you can hear what is going to be done.

Rand Barthel 50 Asylum St, Mendon, MA, whether this facility the public is going to pay for is going to be exported overseas. Talked about winter peak demands,

pipelines do not run at full capacity rest of year. If the public is paying for pipeline to export gas, that challenges the claim. Mr. Snuffer, you have heard that they will not. Mr. Barthel noted there are two LNG planned in Canada which have been approved and it is our information and the people are waiting for this pipeline to be completed so they can begin construction, I think the excess will be used to connect to the maritime and exported. He is part of a working group, branch 350 mass climate change network.

Mr. Bonsall explained that one of the projects we have been working on is to connect the Algonquin system to W. Roxbury we have been told that this project has been exported LNG. We hear that all the time. I can't speak to the Canadian project. We have sized our pipe to fill the LNG off season. There is no gas going to the Canadian project. Can not speak to that project. I do not know what they are doing. I can only speak to Access Northeast.

Carolyn Barthel, I am also a 350 activist, Ann Berwick, former DPU chair, had an article in the Globe, and noted the prices of gas in Mass was the same as the Fracked gas in Pennsylvania. Mr. Snuffer noted her statement is correct it is a fracked product. Ms. Barthel explained that Ann Berwick that points out how volatile this is, the statement that it can be cheaper. The prices in PA were the same as here. We already get 59% of our electricity from gas. We are going to be more vulnerable. Concerned about that. You are aware, that the DPU earlier this month authorized itself to arrange for contracts between utilities and gas pipelines. The Pilgrim plant going off line, it makes 84% of our renewable energy.

Mr. Bonsall explained the reality Chairman are a dime a dozen. It is important to recognize that before Ann left it was noted the need for more gas. This project is in response to the Governor Patrick.

Donna Sherman, Drake Circle it will not touch me. The part I find of concern, whatever local people say, the last voice is the Federal Government. Would you ever go around a community if there is a problem with Aquifer?

Mr. Bonsall thanked the Board for having this. Frank and he have been involved with a number of projects and by the time we are done the project looks different. Talked about a recent project. We learn from meetings to know the concerns. Try to work through the issues.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm,

