

APPROVED
Town of Fitzwilliam
Planning Board Meeting
March 17, 2015

Members Present: Terry Silverman, Robin Blais, Suzanne Gray, Tom Parker and Nancy Carney, Selectman.
Others present: Dana Pinney, Bob Ford, Lisa Kavarnos, Eversource, and Deborah Zarta-Gier, GZA

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Silverman opened the meeting by asking the Board to begin by discussing the options for locating the Q166 line, noting that a group did a site walk on Dana Pinney's property to assess the view of the Eversource substation, poles and transmission lines, from the property. Dana Pinney accompanied the group, which included Kavarnos and Zarta-Gier representing Eversource, Silverman and Blais from the Planning Board, Carney and Holman from the Select Board. Gray noted that Mr. Pinney accompanied her on a personal site walk of the property, covering the same ground as the group had.

Silverman said the decision is between option 2 and option 3. Option 3 is the double circuited option that leaves the substation on the east side and meets an existing ROW where it co-locates on the 379 line on the east side and runs along the Pinney and Ford boundary lines. Option 2 is to locate the Q166 line in the new corridor closer to Route 12. The line would be located in a way that increases the buffer by 50 feet. Blais said she preferred Option 3, even after the site walk.

Gray asked Mr. Pinney for input since option 3 puts the line closer to his property. Mr. Pinney said that from his perspective neither is a good option. More cutting may make the substation issues worse. Option 2 would increase the cutting near Route 12, which might increase traffic noise. He added that he is counting on Eversource to alleviate the noise issues. He said with option 3, the corridor elevation increases and he may see more poles, but they may not be as visible from Route 12.

He is also concerned that the proposed pipeline will cross over Route 12 under 5 transmission lines and may come closer to his property with option 3. Both he and Mr. Ford are concerned about this. He said that whatever the Board does, Kinder Morgan will intrude even more, leaving no real solution. He said the Board should do whatever is best for the greater good.

Gray said option 3 is less intrusive into the wetlands. Blais said she knows the Board is not to consider the Kinder Morgan project, but the Board is trying to put together all aspects to see what the view will be. She agrees option 3 is better for the wetlands and for the view traveling south on Route 12 since the cutting may have less impact. She added that she could look at all the presentations and still not know which option was the best. She felt the landscape presentation did not help very much.

Mr. Ford commended the Board and thanked them for bringing 3 options to the table. He added that any option is better than the first. He said the newest KM environmental filing shows a slightly different route, but there is still no way to tell where the pipeline will go.

Referring to the Drouin map, Ms. Kavarnos indicated where lines and poles will be replaced. Mr. Ford noted that option 3 may be less destructive but wondered about the aesthetics. From the Pinney property you can see the tops of two transmission towers. Pinney asked what will happen to the new corridor if it is not used for option 2. Ms. Kavarnos said there are always reliability issues and it may be used in the future. She said if big business moves into town, they may need more electrical power. Eversource reviews demand every few years.

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Silverman said he leans toward option 3, because using the new corridor for option 2 impacts abutters more. Cutting is a lot less with option 3. He said he would have liked to see Eversource provide more information regarding the pipeline since they were notified about it in December 2013.

He said the Board wants to see future plans for the substation property, adding that he thinks it would be a great spot for a solar array; better than pursuing the myth of natural gas being the solution.

The Board would like to see a comprehensive plan for mitigation regarding the substation issues (noise, view); and a landscaping plan that is substantial enough to provide for a potential 50% die off, or perhaps even bonded. He's like to see the SPR address the issues raised during discussion about the substation as the site plan was being reviewed, not just what was or wasn't in the letters of decision.

Gray said she would like to see more specific details about the buffers. Silverman feels that Eversource disregards aesthetic values, that they think it is not all that scenic here, and do not care. Parker said Eversource didn't give a damn about Fitzwilliam. Blais said when the Board heard the substation SPR they were very naive and believed what they were told. She said that going forward with this SPR, the Board wants everything in writing. Parker added the Board wants guarantees in writing that Eversource will do what they say they are going to do.

Ms. Kavarnos said they will elaborate in the site plan review, building on the conceptual design that has been presented, including plantings for the entrance to the substation and planting along old Route 12, which crosses the wetlands east of the current Route 12. Silverman said he wants a planting plan that includes the substation perimeter and a plan to hold the "moonscape" hill together with vegetation, since it is eroding with gullies forming. There was a brief exchange about whether or not fill was brought in originally.

Mr. Ford said that if option 3 is chosen, he would like to see more precise depictions of view sheds and views of the substation. He'd also like the Board to require a bond for the plantings in the amount of at least \$50,000.

Gray said, as chair of the Economic Committee, businesses in Fitzwilliam are based on tourism; it is a quaint village, woodsey, attracting skiers, hikers, antique aficionados. No one comes to town to see a power station or pipeline, adding the town does not have the infrastructure to serve big business. Power stations and pipeline affect property values and that impacts our businesses.

Silverman said the town has had a couple of other businesses in town that negatively affected property values. However, public service is a necessary evil and therefore he moved to go with Option 3. The motion was seconded by Blais. Silverman, Blais and Gray voted aye, Parker and Carney abstained.

Gray said the Board will review the Eversource application with buffers, transmission lines and structures delineated, a comprehensive plantings plan and the revised conditional use permit to for this option.

The Board reviewed minutes of the March 3, 2015 and the February 17, 2015 meetings. Blais moved, Silverman seconded and the Board approved the minutes of the 03/03/15 meeting as written. Blais moved, Gray seconded and the Board approved the minutes of the 02/17/15 meeting as written.

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Silverman noted that granite removal on the KMO property was already affecting an abutter's well, which shows black flakes in the water. Gray asked the Board to attend to the monthly reports from both quarries in town. Silverman said both DES and DRED spoke in favor of legislation proposed by NHMA and the Town that would give some local control over projects that do not meet the threshold required for state oversight.

Silverman noted that the majority of towns in NH voted overwhelmingly not to allow surveying by Kinder Morgan. Carney said Km can't apply for the permit without at least 95% of the properties in the path being surveyed.

Gray said she'd like the Board to posthumously thank Paula Thompson for her service to the Town.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.