

**Amherst Pipeline Taskforce Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 7:00PM**

**ATTENDEES:** Reed Panasiti, Amanda Jensen, David Beach, J.M. Vore, Joe McCool, Shannon Chandley, Gina Frey, Tiani Coleman, Colin Lonsdale, John D' Angelo – Selectmen, Paul Indeglia – Conservation Commission, Colleen Mailloux – Community Development Director.

J. D' Angelo welcomed the group to the first meeting of the Pipeline Taskforce. Members introduced themselves and gave brief introduction on their background and skills. J. D' Angelo stated that there is no funding included in the Town's budget at this current time to pay for attorneys or environmental consultants for this project. The Town has reached out to several attorneys to possibly represent the interests of the Town in the pipeline process and many have been conflicted out because they have either represented Kinder Morgan, or other impacted communities. The Town is seeking a knowledgeable attorney familiar with the FERC process to provide guidance.

The group discussed the need to better understand the FERC and SEC processes, the opportunities for input and timelines. It was noted that Nashua Regional Planning Commission held an informational session about the SEC process. C. Mailloux will get a copy of the presentation from NRPC.

No application has been submitted to the SEC yet. The filing with the NH SEC is not expected until the FERC filing which is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. There was a discussion of the NHDES role, and the letter that was submitted from MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs regarding the previously proposed route through MA.

NRPC is putting together a working group on the pipeline. It was indicated that there has been no response from Governor Hassan's office regarding the pipeline. S. Chandley asked if this taskforce is looking at benefits of the project as well as the potential negative impacts. J. D' Angelo stated that one goal could be to keep the pipeline away from homes and sensitive areas and possible propose alternative locations. A. Jensen asked if there are any committees in the state legislature that are looking at this issue? S. Chandley indicated that she has contact with individuals at NHDES and could discuss the project and their role.

J. D' Angelo stated that the first priority is determining deadlines that impact the Town in regards to the FERC and SEC processed. D. Beach – the initial FERC comment period ends March 18. P. Indeglia suggested that alternative routes through Amherst should be proposed. The soils in the industrial zone and following the Route 101A corridor are generally better for the proposed project. Proximity to schools was discussed. John stated that there is no prohibition from being in proximity to the schools, but the route around the river was proposed to avoid the schools. J. McCool stated that Kinder Morgan has been fined in the past for locating too close to schools.

With the March 18 deadline for public comment, the taskforce should prepare its comments by the end of February for review by the Board of Selectmen. P. Indeglia stated that he has met with Pat McGee, from the Hollis Pipeline Taskforce, and received information and timelines from Hollis.

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48 J. D'Angelo stated that the taskforce needs to decide what it can do and what its goals should be.  
49 1) Influence the route in Amherst? 2) Push the route out of Amherst? 3) Push the route out of  
50 NH? 4) Stop the pipeline entirely? What is reasonable for this committee, what is our goal?

51  
52 There was a discussion on the need for the pipeline and the need for more power. A. Jensen  
53 stated that the New England states asked for FERC to find a way to get natural gas into the area.  
54 D. Beach stated that appropriate sizing needs to be addressed. The proposed pipeline will  
55 provide significantly more natural gas than current demand requires.

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57 A. Jensen stated that the community needs to be educated. New Hampshire is an energy  
58 exporter, but other New England states are consumers. Utility pricing is set by the Public  
59 Utilities Commission.

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61 J. D'Angelo stated that the taskforce will have an educational component. Information will be  
62 made available to Amherst residents. The tariff that will pay for the pipeline will be borne by  
63 residents of all New England states no matter where the pipeline is located.

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65 J. McCool mentioned environmental concerns with crossing the Souhegan River, Ponemah Bog,  
66 and aquifer protection area (Bon Terrain). J. McCool stated that the pipeline runs counter to the  
67 2010 Master Plan for the Town.

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69 Consideration of an alternate route makes sense. Transportation corridors and business and  
70 commercial areas should be used. The size and capacity of the pipe should be questioned. The  
71 taskforce is not intended to be an opposition group to the pipeline but is intended to educate  
72 residents and make sure that Amherst does not experience negative impacts.

73  
74 C. Lonsdale stated that residents should be made aware of the project. Only a small percentage  
75 of the town population is aware of the project. There is misinformation being provided which  
76 needs to be corrected. This taskforce should provide accurate, complete and balanced  
77 information for residents.

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79 A brief discussion took place regarding national energy policy, questions on the necessity for the  
80 project, and the policy for creating fossil fuel infrastructure rather than pursuing alternative energy  
81 sources.

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83 P. Indeglia stated that the Hollis Taskforce had subgroups working in four categories: rural  
84 character, environmental impacts, economic impacts, and transportation/safety. P. Indeglia and  
85 A. Jensen discussed construction techniques, burying the pipe deeper than the proposed 3', better  
86 options for location of the pipeline.

87  
88 The role of NRPC was discussed. C. Mailloux will coordinate with NRPC letting them know  
89 that Amherst would like them to facilitate developing an alternative route that makes sense  
90 within neighboring communities. NRPC is forming a group with representatives from each  
91 community, Amherst will have a representative on that committee.

C. Mailloux suggested that the first step is identifying sensitive properties that are on the pipeline route – dense residential development, environmentally sensitive areas, etc. Those sensitive properties which should be avoided. An impacted property owner list should be available from Kinder Morgan or from NRPC, which has included the pipeline in its online GIS mapping tool. C. Mailloux will apply a 1,000’ buffer to the pipeline route and identify sensitive areas.

D. Beach expressed concerns about leakage and impacts to water supplies. C. Lonsdale stated that leakage is not a local hazard, but release of methane into the air is a global warming concern.

A. Jensen discussed possible points of negotiation with Kinder Morgan: depth, safety concerns, business aspirations, fire/rescue assistance. T. Coleman expressed concern regarding the impact on the rural character of the community.

The development of Simeon Wilson was discussed in relation to a land swap between the Town and the Developer. C. Mailloux will look into the restrictions on the land and the Planning Board approvals of that development.

By the March 18 comment period deadline, the areas of concern / sensitive properties should be identified. Taskforce members volunteered for several study areas:

- Process (FERC / SEC) – J.M. Vore & D. Beach
- Education (Context Development) – A. Jensen & C. Lonsdale
- Alternate Routes - J. D’Angelo
- Environmental – P. Indeglia, S. Chandley, G. Frey
- Safety/Construction – P. Indeglia, J. McCool, D. Beach
- Rural Character – J.McCool
- Economic – S. Chandley & R. Panasiti
- Legal Background – A. Jensen & Tiani Coleman.

G. Frey and J.M. Vore will assist C. Mailloux with the identification of sensitive properties for the initial response to the request for comments. C. Mailloux will set up a Google Drive account for sharing files and calendars. C. Mailloux will circulate a contact list of taskforce members. The next meeting will be held February 12 at 7pm. At that time we should have comments in draft form to then be reviewed by the BOS prior to submission.

**The meeting ended at approximately 9:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Mailloux