

Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Mike Kaminski, Chair
Dave Nault, Selectman
Justin Nault, Selectman

Town Officials present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Jeff Crosby, Road Agent

Members of the Public present:

Jessica Farrell, National Grid Principal Engineer
Matthew Spofford, National Grid Substation Manager
Corey Schultzman, National Grid Environmental Scientist
Danielle Aretz, National Grid Public Relations
Orlando Martinez, National Grid Project Manager
Sean Downey, National Grid Community Outreach
Ruth Ward, State Senator, District 8

Lee Martel recorded the meeting for the benefit of citizens that were unable to attend (Linda Nickerson uploads the videos to YouTube).

Mike Kaminski called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Justin Nault to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 25, 2023 as written.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0)

Motion: by Justin Nault, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of May 25, 2023 as written.

Discussion: Mike Kaminski noted that these minutes are not to be sealed.
Vote: (3-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

National Grid Upgrades

A team from National Grid made a presentation to the Board regarding their initiative, The Twin States CleanEnergy Link and how it impacts Dunbarton. This project is an effort to make the power grid ‘greener’ and they are competing with others for acceptance as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Project Manager **Orlando Martinez** gave a brief overview of where they have derived their power from in the past, and what their intention is going forward. They are seeking more renewable sources of energy to support a line that will come in from Canada. They would like to construct and upgrade an existing line that will be bi-directional, so that they can both receive and export power. Canada has sources of hydropower, and the states would harness Windpower.

The lines will be underground, beginning in Canaan VT, and entering NH in the Dalton area. It will be converted to alternating current and lines will run from Comerford, NH to Londonderry, NH above-ground. They don’t want to expand the right-of-way or clear any trees. They are looking to use existing lines and towers.

Principal Engineer **Jessica Farrell** provided the Board with some technical details and specifications on how they plan to update existing structures to support their proposed system.

Community Outreach Coordinator **Sean Downey** shared that they are working on putting together a Community Benefits Package for their host communities and impacted regions including tax revenue (estimating \$400K annually once the project is in service); other benefits toward community-identified needs and lowered energy costs. **Dave Nault** commented that it is important to consider the government systems in place in various towns. Smaller towns may not have the resources to navigate a complicated process in order to access those benefits.

He also noted increased energy costs they've experienced over the past couple of years and was curious to know what plans they have in place to control costs.

Orlando Martinez demonstrated the location of the proposed lines and the flow of energy through different communities.

Justin Nault asked how long they expect the implementation process to take and when they expect to begin seeing benefits? **Mr. Martinez** answered that it is a rather lengthy permitting and construction process. They are looking at 2030-31 by the time they are up and running.

Substation Engineer **Matt Spofford** provided an overview of their plan to build a substation on Kimball Pond Road within the existing right-of-way.

Line Comeau asked about their plans to work with abutters. **Danielle Aretz** explained that they keep in touch with abutters and communicate with community leaders to make sure there is a high level of community awareness about the project. They are awaiting phase 2 approval this fall.

Mike Kaminski asked the group to forward Line Comeau the proper verbiage to use in communicating the information about this project to the community.

Mike Kaminski asked about the herbicide they would use. Environmental Scientist **Corey Schultzman** said that any herbicide they do use is approved by the state. They are also working with NH Fish & Game to identify local endangered species.

Lee Martel noted that there are some herbicides that are approved by the state, but they are still not good for the native trout in the area. It is something that he has contacted the state about several times. Sean Downey offered to take his contact information so that they can follow up with him and determine where he is located so they can assess any impact. **Ms. Schultzman** said they don't use herbicide near waterways, they instead do clearing and hand-cutting in those areas.

Review Bids

The Board has received a roofing bid for the town office building but are seeking at least two more. The Board discussed whether or not they wanted to develop an RFP for the roofing work they need. **Line Comeau** will reach out to a couple more roofing companies for bids and if they are all above the threshold, they will

develop the RFP. They may need to develop an RFP for the roof at the Fire/Police Department as well given the unique features of the building.

Mailbox Items

Mike Kaminski reviewed the items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

- Notice from Primex Property & Liability insurance provider.

Effective 2024 the town is required to a current appraisal of any “Fine Arts” insured by Primex. Our Fine Arts currently insured by Primex are:

1. Timothy Chandler floor clock (located in the library)
2. The hearse, located at the Pages Corner Cemetery shed.

Primex provided a list of appraisers: Two in Massachusetts, one in Milford NH and a fourth appraiser who works with a local resident in Dunbarton from Exeter NH.

3. The Milford company quoted an estimate of \$1,000 to appraise both items via photos and/or there would be an additional cost for travel time.
4. Peter Sawyer from Exeter NH returned my call and said he would do an appraisal of both pieces (on site in Dunbarton) for \$550.

Motion: by Dave Nault seconded by Justin Nault to accept the quote from Peter Sawyer of Exeter NH for appraisal services in the amount of (\$550).

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

- Update for Town Hall Grand Opening (email from Enid Larsen). **Line Comeau** said that this is basically a punch list to identify areas where they still need some support.
 - **Dave Nault** noted that he heard from Don Larsen who noted that they had to reprint a list of names of people that assisted with or contributed to the project as a couple of names were omitted. He asked for help with the \$50 cost to reprint. The Board was in consensus to cover the \$50 cost.
 - **Line Comeau** said that she looked to make sure that the cleaning supplies were available for their cleaning person. She also reviewed the area with them and the work that they are looking to have done there.
 - Discussion occurred regarding the swinging doors near the stage and the possible safety hazard they pose. **Line Comeau** ordered some signs to place on the doors.
 - **Mike Kaminski** noted that the doors to the entryway need some weather stripping along the bottom. **Dave Nault** said that there is weatherstripping there that he can apply for now. It is too tight to put it on the doors in the winter.

- Discussion occurred regarding final preparations for the grand opening on June 10.
- Lawn care contract from ASAP Landscaping for town properties & cemeteries. **Dave Nault** noted that cleanup from plow damage should be a part of spring cleanup that they already pay for. He doesn't feel that it is something that should be an extra charge because it is not excessive. **Line Comeau** said that she will call them and clarify the particulars regarding spring cleanup.
- Notice from Kevin Keefe who works for the US Department of Veterans Affairs. He would like permission to advertise on the town website the need for VA Foster Home care to Dunbarton Residents. The only one currently available is in Maine. After some discussion regarding potential benefits to the town's residents, the Board agreed to allow Mr. Keefe to advertise this messaging.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Martel said they are still working to locate a rock for the plaque.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Line Comeau said that she is unable to locate a timer box for the light for the flagpole as discussed at the last meeting. She only was able to locate one for the bandstand.

Line Comeau said they still need to have keys made for the front door of the Library/Town Hall. Aside from the master key they only have a key for the upstairs door (that has a keypad installed).

Justin Nault initiated discussion on the NationalGrid proposal.

Dave Nault doesn't feel that they have been treated fairly by the PUC in recent years, and any additional energy coming into the area could be beneficial.

Discussion occurred regarding potential additional noise.

Mike Kaminski feels it is an infrastructure upgrade and provides a potential additional stream of income for the town. They will discuss this item further at their next meeting.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion: by Mike Kaminski to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A 3 II (c) at the request of the Building Code Enforcement Officer

By roll-call vote: **Kaminski-yes. D. Nault-yes. J. Nault-yes.**

The Board took a 2-minute recess at 8:48 p.m. to allow the room to clear for nonpublic session.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 8:50 p.m.

The Board reentered public session at 9:05 p.m.

There were no motions made during the nonpublic meeting.

Michael Kaminski directed the Town Administrator to work with the Building Department to draft up a letter to send to the owner of 51 Morse Road on their behalf to address the code violation.

Michael Kaminski stated that he spoke to the Police Chief earlier in the week and was informed that there might be a potential candidate to fill the vacancy in the Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Michael Kaminski, seconded by David Nault to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 3-0 Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Signed:

Michael Kaminski, Chair

Dave Nault, Selectman

Justin Nault, Selectman