

# Albion Transmission Line Committee Meeting Agenda

**Date:** 8/24/2023

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Members present:** Tom Bolen, John Shaw, Paul Flynn, Lance Stewart and Tracy Tuttle

**Members absent:** Charlie Hall

**Support Group (non-Members) present:** Holly Noyes

**Support Group (non-Members) absent:** Lincoln Sennett, Erin Bennett Wade

**Guests:** Mrs. Hunstberger (Unity), Tanya Blanchard (Thorndike), Erick Rolfson (Albion)

## Goals and Objectives for the Committee:

- Work as a team to push back against/stop implementation of new transmission within the town of Albion.
- Work with other towns regionally impacted by the proposed transmission line to achieve the same.
- Work with the Town of Albion to put in place an ordinance which will mitigate the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) impact of any transmission/utility corridors within the Town of Albion.
- Increase public awareness of the line and its potential impacts: Health, Environment, Land values, other alternatives to the proposed new line.

## Sub Group Discussion:

- Community engagement (local and regional), marketing, landowner outreach, moratorium, etc.
  - *Discussion ensued around a potential Rally in Augusta sometime in September.*
    - *Work needs to be done to better define the outcome. What are we trying to accomplish with this if done.*
- Environmental impacts
- Alternatives to transmission line; Existing corridors, storage, etc (Tom and Lance)
  - *Continuing to review maps, documents and public statements to better define suggested alternatives*
- Town Selectmen updates, legal, planning board, etc (Paul, others and other town discussions).
  - *Windsor ordinance regarding High Impact Transmission lines was forwarded to Scott Cryway, Holly Noyes and subsequently to Tom Bolen. Tom passed this on the Paul Flynn to pass on to the town Lawyer for review and further action.*

## Old Business:

- Progress to Date:
  - Moratorium: Paul met with an attorney on 7/31 and discussed the moratorium.
  - Attorney drafted an ordinance, presented it to the Selectman and they approved. Paul reports that this will go to vote at a special town meeting on 8/28/23, "The Town of Albion is voting on a 6 month moratorium on all construction projects. The select

board can extend another 6 months if they feel necessary. It can be extended another 6 months at the pleasure of the town selectman. If an additional 6 months of extension is requested verification of progress is being made on putting in place the new High Impact Transmission line ordinance.

- Continue push to have Legislators adopt and submit the “Take The Farm” legislation from Minnesota or something similar from other states. Senator Curry, Representatives Foster and Cryway have all been made aware of this legislation and also sent copies of it. Tom to follow up with them in the coming weeks.
- Maine PUC Late Intervenor discussion. Pro’s and Con’s of doing this; time and money. We believe it would allow non-public record access to further build case to present to the PUC

#### **New Business:**

- September Augusta Rally – Holly
- Late Intervenor discussion – Tom
- Legislation push – Tom
- Windsor’s High Impact Transmission Line Ordinance – Holly and Tom
- 8/29 Meetings here and in Plymouth
- **Thank you to Erin Bennett Wade** for helping us in taking minutes and adding her insights to our endeavor
- *Voted in Eric Rolfson as the 7<sup>th</sup> member of the committee.*

#### **Action Items:**

- *Finalize rally discussion on 8/31*
  - *John to call the Augusta police to better understand the process and requirements of holding a public rally.*
- *Finalize “late intervenor” discussion on 8/31 and determine path forward*
- *Send Tanya Blanchard the Minnesota “Take The Farm” statute for her assimilation (Tom)*
- *Prep for Town Meeting on Monday 8/28; (Tom)*
- *Prep for Committee meeting with Senator LaFountain on Tuesday 8/29 (John and Charlie)*
- *Review Daymark study (LS Power documents under “Studies”, specifically page 22 regarding the “connection” to Aroostook county; (All)*
- *Tom and Paul attending the Plymouth open meeting on Tuesday 8/29*
- *Follow-up on the new High Impact Transmission ordinance; (Paul)*
- *Contact Jeannie to swear in Tracy Tuttle and Eric Rolfson as committee members (Tom)*
- *Further investigate and discuss Regionalization of Town Committees (Tom and Eric)*

**Upcoming Committee Meetings dates and time:** 8/24/2023 at 6 pm, 8/31/2023 at 6 pm. September meetings will move to Tuesdays. Dates tbd

Special town meeting to vote on Moratorium ordinance is Monday 8/28. September meetings will move to Tuesdays.

**Time of adjournment:** *8:35pm*