

Albion Transmission Line Committee Minutes
September 12, 2023

Committee Attendees:

- Tom Bolen (chair)
- Lance Stewart
- Paul Flynn
- John Shaw
- Tracy Tuttle
- Eric Rolfson

Support Group Attendees:

- Steve Bennett – Chair Board of Selectmen, Freedom
- Scott Cyrway

1. Goals and Objectives for the Committee

The chair reviewed the Committee's goals and objectives for the benefit of guests, including:

- Working as a team to stop the implementation of a new transmission corridor within the town of Albion;
- Collaborating with other towns impacted by the proposed line;
- Seeking an Albion ordinance to mitigate the impact of any transmission/utility corridors within the town; and
- Increasing public awareness concerning the line's potential impacts and alternatives to the proposed line

2. Old Business

• Rally in Augusta

The Committee reviewed possible dates for the Augusta rally and voted to hold it on Saturday, October 14, pending final permit approval and a green light from Albion's attorney ensuring the Committee could sponsor the rally and would be protected by the town's liability insurance.

The Committee also reviewed potential messaging and a Rally speaker list that was proposed by the sub-committee tasked with organizing the event.

3. New Business

a. Meeting in Bangor

Chair Bolen updated the committee on the meeting held in Bangor that morning to which several legislators attended to hear a presentation by Andrew Ballantyne. The goal was to educate Legislators as to the HVDC alternative and to encourage a bill that would put a hold on the project until

a feasibility study from an independent group like NextGen could be completed.

b. Albion Planning Board Meeting

The chair also reported on his meeting with the Albion Planning Board earlier in the week. The Albion Board has established a sub-committee to work on further ordinances pertaining to this project. Ben McPherson is leading this effort. The lead time for an ordinance is estimated to be two months.

c. Report from Freedom

Freedom Selectmen chair Bennett reported that the town had received a letter from LSP in the past couple weeks offering additional mitigation dollars if they would allow the transmission line to run a significantly longer distance through Freedom. He also reported that a survey to town residents had been mailed, that there were only 35 responses, and that all but four were in opposition to the line's path as currently projected. They, too, are working on a moratorium ordinance.

d. Aroostook Gateway vs. Twin State Projects

Discussion focused on the reality that putting lines underground and transmitting HVDC power is, in fact, cost effective, contradicting what LS Power has said publicly. The Aroostook Gateway project is only 50 miles longer, yet it is projected to cost approximately \$1 billion more than the Twin State project's HVDC underground transmission plans.

e. Meeting on September 28

A meeting has been approved for 9/28 to which LSP engineers, Sen. Troy Jackson, Sen. Dave LaFountain, Rep. Scott Cyrway, Andrew Ballantyne, and others have been invited. Discussion to be centered around both the technical details of the proposed transmission line and impacts to local communities.

4. Action Items

- a. Jon will pursue permitting issue for the potential rally.
- b. Paul will speak with attorney Bill Lee to ensure Albion's liability insurance will cover the Committee as sponsors for the rally.
- c. Tanya, Brook, and Eric will pursue developing a communications list for stakeholders and towns along the route to see which have formed committees and who their contact persons are.

Adjourned 8:00 PM