

MINUTES

7:30 PM

PRESENT: T. Ciacciarelli
R. Dodds
D. Haywood
J. Mathieu (7:35 PM)
L. Riggio
J. Strasser
M. Syrnick
C. Ely, Alt #2

ABSENT: S. McNicol
L. Voronin (Alt #1)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by M. Syrnick at 7:34 PM.

NOTIFICATION

In order to ensure full public participation at this meeting, all members of this Board, and members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Notification of the time, date and place of this meeting has been published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News, and has been posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building at least 48 hours prior to this meeting and has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

NEW AND PENDING MATTERS

Sustainable Aquaculture Project – Update

M. Syrnick thanked everyone who has been volunteering to spearhead this project. She thanked D. Haywood for putting together a committee as well as C. Ely, L. Voronin and D. Kratzer. She also thanked D. Pierce.

D. Haywood stated, since the June meeting, they had attended the Land Use Board in Franklin Township. Franklin Township was conducting a new hearing, at Kingwood's request. The hearing started out with an overview of the project and some of the changes that were made. Kingwood did not know the original plans for the project. Sustainable Aquaculture's (SA) hydrogeologist was there and provided testimony. When it was time for D. Pierce to cross-examine, it was 10:00 PM and the hearing was adjourned. It was postponed until August.

M. Syrnick stated D. Pierce had the cross examination prepared for the next meeting to see if SA has done all they should have to protect the water.

D. Haywood stated D. Pierce and L. Voronin have an extensive background in hydrogeology. D. Haywood stated their expertise may present new issues that Franklin was not aware of when the original hearings were held last year. There were two people on the Board that were doing a lot more questioning and were definitely on Kingwood's side. She is not sure if that permeates throughout the Board.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by R. Dodds, seconded by L. Riggio and carried to approve the minutes of May 12, 2016 and place on file with the correction on page 3, first paragraph:

Certificate of Needs and Necessities should be changed to Certificate of Public Convenience.

All members present voted **AYE** except J. Mathieu and C. Ely, who **ABSTAINED**.

APPLICATION STATUS

CORRESPONDENCE

M. Synchron reviewed as per the agenda:

Freshwater Wetlands Notice – Block 21, Lot 1 – Barbertown Point Breeze Road

Freshwater Wetlands Application – Block 15, Lot 8 – Pittstown Road

Freshwater Wetlands Notice – Block 26, Lot 23 – Featherbed Road

The secretary was requested to contact J. Tareila regarding the notice of where the application was filed.

NJCF – Update on PennEast

M. Synchron stated FERC is going to issue a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Once the EIS is issued there are only 45 days to comment on it. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has filed with the PA DEP a statement that indicated PennEast has gross errors on the numbers of wetlands and the wetlands delineation. They haven't been able to locate the survey stakes or standard things that PennEast should have done. New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is getting together with the citizens' groups and conducting training classes to learn how to comment on the EIS. NJCF and a couple of citizens' groups have been hiring experts to conduct studies in Kingwood. PennEast has stated there are no endangered species. With the hiring of an expert, the expert would be able to offer testimony that bats, redheaded woodpeckers, etc have been found.

R. Dodds stated he has a call in L. Lance's office to request an evidentiary hearing.

M. Synchron stated NJCF analyzed PennEast's need and asked for an adjudicated hearing. PennEast dismissed the request. The history of FERC has been that they have not followed their own rules.

R. Dodds stated the pipeline is totally unnecessary. It will raise the rate payers costs for gas not lower them. The rate payers will have to pay for the pipeline.

J. Mathieu inquired if anyone has contacted the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) about the rate payers and the need for the pipeline. BPU has no jurisdiction on whether the pipeline is needed but when it is a capital

expense, a specific amount of the cost must be paid for by the shareholders and there is a specific amount that can be recovered from the rate payer.

M. Syrnick responded the Natural Gas Act states that the rate payers must pay 100% of the cost.

J. Mathieu stated if the argument is that the rate payers are going to pay for the cost of the pipeline a little research should be done to make sure that the argument is accurate.

M. Syrnick responded to J. Strasser's comment if it is cheaper to send the gas through the pipeline rather than by truck. The experts have looked into it. PennEast is owned by a consortium of energy companies. PennEast will be the owner of the pipeline. The capacity of the pipeline, 1 billion cubic feet per day, has been already contracted which qualifies PennEast for a Certificate of Public Convenience. Currently gas in New Jersey is provided from the Marcellus shale through the Transco line. PennEast is saying that they will be transporting more gas into New Jersey so they can fully provide to NJ and the surrounding states. It will allow PennEast to enter into the midstream market and expand their business. If PennEast gets into the midstream business, which is a new product line for the New Jersey owners, they will be able to sell to anyone. They can sell it to themselves instead of paying for the transmission through the Transco line. They will be paying themselves for the transmission of the gas. There is a surplus of gas in the Marsellus shale. Currently, the glut is keeping prices low. Once it gets to the terminals for distribution, they can raise the price. Looking at the gas trends, New Jersey's gas demands for the next 10 years will be flat. New Jersey will not need any more gas.

M. Syrnick stated Cove Point, Maryland has given approval for LNG production and export terminal. She stated there is a LNG plant planned in upstate Pennsylvania.

Email from M. DeSapio – Re: Block 17, Lot 8

D. Haywood stated M. DeSapio is requesting that the committee refrain from any enforcement of any violations until the Planning Board has made the determination on the pending site plan application. D. Haywood stated the Township Committee responded that they would not be refraining from the enforcement of any violations. The Township's Construction Official will be visiting the site and determining if any violations should be issued.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by C. Ely, seconded by R. Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. All members present voted **AYE**.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Laudenschach, Secretary