

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2018
AT THE JESSE SMITH LIBRARY
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Jeffrey Partington, Chairman, presiding.

Members Present: Jeffrey Partington, Jeffrey Presbrey, Robert Woods, Marc Tremblay, Dov Pick, Michael Lupis, and Bruce Ferreira.

Members Absent: Christopher Desjardins and Leo Felice.

Others Present: Town Solicitor William Dimitri, Joseph Raymond, Building Official, Ray Goff, Planning Director and Christine Langlois,

II. ATTENDANCE REVIEW:

Mr. Partington acknowledged that both Mr. Desjardins and Mr. Felice were excused this evening.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: There were no minutes to address.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Major Land Development:

The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Clear River Energy LLC, Burrillville Interconnection Project, Burrillville: *Construction of a new 345 kV transmission line (3052) between the CREC proposed facility and the Sherman Road Switching Station, and Alteration of two existing 345 kV transmission lines (341 Line and 347 Line); Review & Public Hearing; (cont'd from December 2, 2017):* In attendance representing National Grid was Attorney George Watson, of Robinson + Cole, David Beron, Project Manager, Jamie Durand, environmental consultant, as well as Attorneys Beth Noonan & Nicole Verdi, of Adler, Pollock & Sheehan, representing the Clear River Energy Company. Attorney Watson stated that the National Grid presentation had been completed at the last meeting but that the project manager and environmental consultant were present to address any concerns. Chairman Partington noted that additional information had been requested at the December 4th meeting and inquired as to whether that was available for the Board. Attorney Watson said he believed there had been a question from the Zoning Official in regards to the correct limits of the right-of-way, which has been provided to him at the Zoning Board hearing a few weeks ago. Chairman Partington then asked what the determination of the Zoning Board had been at that meeting. Attorney Watson said that the hearing has been continued to February 13, 2018. Chairman Partington then addressed the Board stating that as no additional information had been provided for the review, they may address any additional questions or concerns this evening.

The Board asked what concerns were raised by the Zoning Board at the previous hearing. Attorney Watson said they questioned the location of the Clear River Energy limits right-of-way, recent improvements from the Interstate Reliability project, proposed tree clearing, development of a vegetative management plan for National Grid, types of impacts anticipated on the right-of-way, and asked for an update on state and federal permit applications. Other questions of the Board members were:

- *What is the status on the recent issue for costs incurred for the National Grid portion of the project?* Attorney Watson explained that Invenenergy had filed a complaint with

FERC regarding the tariffs for the operation and maintenance of the network upgrades; however, the complaint has been withdrawn by Invenergy. FERC is still reviewing the complaint even though Invenergy has withdrawn the complaint.

- *Has some of the recent "drama" in the news with National Grid, the ISO and Clear River Energy has been cleared up?* Attorney Watson said that FERC has ruled in favor of National Grid on the complaint in regards to the Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA). The Large Generator Interconnection Agreement is still pending.
- *Are there any alternative locations for the interconnection other the National Grid right-of-way?* Mr. Beron stated that other alternatives were reviewed, which are outlined in Chapter 5 of the Environmental Review report, but were discarded.
- *Is \$47 million the cost estimate for the interconnection project?* Mr. Beron replied that the cost estimates have not changed. *Were these costs included in the original cost estimates for the power plant itself?* Attorney Watson said that National Grid was unaware of whether the cost estimate for the interconnection project was included in the cost estimates for the power plant.
- *Where is the project in obtaining approvals from the Army Corp. of Engineers and the RIDEM?* Mr. Beron told the Board that a Freshwater Wetlands application was submitted to RIDEM between National Grid and Clear River Energy showing everything as one large project as well as the Army Corp. of Engineers. Several post-application meetings were held with each agency as well as site meetings to view the impact areas. Data requests have been received from RIDEM; nothing as of yet from the Army Corp. of Engineers.

Chairman Partington then asked for any questions, or comments, from the audience as the Public Hearing had been continued from the December 4, 2017 meeting.

Ken Putnam, of 500 Wallum Lake Road, asked the Board to put off their decision on the National Grid submission until a decision has been made by the EFSB on the Clear River Energy Center.

Madeleine Putnam, of 500 Wallum Lake Road, voiced concerns with protecting the aquifer.

Cynthia Crook-Pick, of 700 Cherry Farm Road, asked if all permits have been received to construction the interconnection? Attorney Watson said no and explained that they are required to obtain a license from the Energy Facility Siting Board and approvals from RIDEM and the Army Corp. of Engineers before they could begin the project. The EFSB requires advisory opinions from several state agencies before a permit can be issued. There is a six-month deadline for these advisory opinions, which are due by March 15, 2018. No decision on the interconnect project would be rendered by the EFSB until a decision has been made on the power plant proposal. *Ms. Crook-Pick asked the type of relief from the noise ordinance they seeking from the Zoning Board?* Attorney Watson said they are seeking relief from the time limit for construction activities, which would be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. *She then asked where the structures for the interconnection project would be store while the project is under construction?* Mr. Beron said a lay-down area would be designated but nothing is planned as of yet.

Mr. Woods asked if the right-of-way from the Algonquin substation to the substation station on Sherman Farm Road is owned by National Grid or private property with existing easements? Attorney Watson said that the right-of-way consists of 6.8 miles, with .8 miles controlled by Clear River Energy. National Grid retains 6 miles of right-of-way with portions owned in fee by National Grid and portions owned by easements.

Stephanie Sloman, of 387 Courthouse Lane, told the Board that she had an update on the status of the RIDEM permit for CREC and provided it to the Board. *Ms. Sloman asked how long would it take for the interconnection project?* Mr. Beron said the goal of National Grid is to complete their project at the same time the Clear River Energy Center project is completed. The construction schedule depends on the weather, the ability to take the existing transmission lines out of service, which can only happen in “shoulder periods”, during off-peak periods. He estimated approximately two years. *Ms. Sloman questioned the route that would be taken to access the .8 mile r-o-w under the CREC control- the Buck Hill access, Invenergy’s road access from Wallum Lake Road or Algonquin’s entrance?* Mr. Beron said that access would be gained through the Buck Hill Road and Staghead Road right-of-ways and the Invenergy road access off of Wallum Lake Road. *She then asked who would be coordinating the project – Invenergy or National Grid?* Mr. Beron said that Invenergy would take care of the power plant and National Grid would take care of the transmission line extension– the same way the Grid conducted the Interstate Connectivity project. *She asked if any blasting would be necessary?* Mr. Beron said there would be no blasting, adding that the entire Interstate Connectivity project which took place several years ago was conducted without having to blast. *Ms. Sloman then asked how deep would the poles need go into the ground?* Mr. Beron said it depends on the height of the structure, the stand, and whether the lines take an angle – anywhere from 15 feet to 30 feet depending on the structure.

Cyndi Lussier, of Old Wallum Lake Road, asked if some of the interconnection work would be contracted out to private companies? Mr. Beron stated that plan is to have private contractors conduct the construction with oversight from a National Grid supervisor, as well as internal environmental monitors for the environmental aspect.

Alisha Kelly, of Danielson Pike, Scituate, asked if National Grid had changed its plan to purchase and stockpile the “raw materials” for the project without a decision to-date on the power plan project? Mr. Beron said that the plan has not changed, adding there are milestones schedules contained within the LGIA, which has been agreed upon between National Grid and Invenergy. He added that Invenergy would have to provide a Notice to Proceed to National Grid for the design and purchase of these materials, which would include the funds to purchase the materials.

Mr. Ferreira asked if it was possible to use “T” poles whenever there is a road crossing to eliminate visibility at the road junctions? Mr. Beron said that it was possible, but not proposed as there is a balance of a lot of factors involved. The single pole structures require very large, reinforced concrete foundations – with a bigger footprint – and are considerably taller making them more visible. The current design tries to balance all those factors, especially the environmental impacts, costs, etc.

Chairman Partington then asked for a status update on the approval process for the Clear River Energy Center from the attorneys representing Invenergy. Attorney Beth Noonan told the Board that a Show Cause Hearing had been scheduled for January 30, 2018, which has

since been cancelled. They are in the process of scheduling Final Hearings before the EFSB and the earliest date available is April 11, 2018. Expert testimony is still being circulated as well as discovery and data requests. The application before RIDEM is pending so information is going back and forth. In regards to Mr. Woods question on ownership of the .8 miles of line extension to the proposed energy center, she said that the property is owned by Spectra Energy, and the CREC would have an easement for the utility line.

Dennis Anderson, of Whipple Avenue, Pascoag, asked for the status of the water supply situation? Attorney Noonan stated that the agreement with the Narragansett Indians had recently been cancelled although the proposal was only a backup plan. The first water source proposal is with the Town of Johnston and the second water source is Ben Water, a professional water hauler.

Having no further questions from the Board or public, a motion to continue the review of the Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Clear River Energy LLC, Burrillville Interconnect Project for the construction of a new 345 kV transmission line between the CREC proposed facility and the Sherman Road Switching Station to the March 5, 2018 meeting, and to continue the public hearing portion for further comments or questions, was made Mr. Lupis. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tremblay and carried unanimously by the Board.

At 8:25 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Pick and carried unanimously by the Board.

Recorded by: M. Christine Langlois
M. Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner