



Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes July 17, 2018

The public meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Auditorium by Chairman Norm Holcomb. Selectmen present: Erik Tolley, Tracy Post, Mike Stone, Mark Forest. Also attending: Yarmouth Town Administrator Dan Knapik; Yarmouth Assistant Town Administrator, Chris Dwelley; and representatives from Vineyard Wind.

1. Public Announcements & Comments

Tom Sullivan, West Yarmouth, commented on the regional agreement and stated that the vote on the new school building should be on the ballot. He also inquired about the time lapse between the water incident and the public notification from the Water Department.

2. Vineyard Wind Project Update

Town Administrator Dan Knapik introduced representatives from Vineyard Wind who presented an overview of the project, two potential ground-fall locations, possible cable routes to substations, and a proposed construction schedule. The geographic site selection process and the bidding process were both outlined. Specific areas of public concern were addressed, including how Lewis Bay was selected; how New Hampshire Avenue was selected as a possible landing site; impacts to aquaculture, recreation, and navigation; and studies used and conducted by Vineyard Wind.

a. Questions from the Public:

Martin Reilly of West Yarmouth commented on the uniqueness of Lewis Bay and activities that take place there, and asked why any entity would be allowed to possibly destroy it. He also asked for an explanation of the Covell Beach option. A Vineyard Wind representative explained some drawbacks at Covells Beach, including eel grass. Time of year restrictions on construction were also discussed.

John Henderson of Cummaquid Heights asked how Higgins Crowell Road, the police station, schools, and his own neighborhood will be accessed during installation of the cable's land route; why the payments to the town wouldn't begin until completion date (2023-2025) when the town will be incurring expenses; and why there is a \$1 million cap on payments to the town. Vineyard Wind explained that the roads will be restored regardless of cost, and the \$1 million is for post-construction infrastructure improvements. They are also willing to work with residents to avoid running through neighborhoods and would prefer installing the cable under the bike path. Mr. Henderson then asked about scallop studies. Vineyard Wind has been in talks with scallop and oyster farmers.

1:00:00 INTERRUPTION IN RECORDING

Steve (inaudible) of Yarmouth Port expressed his confidence in the Board of Selectmen and the process, and asked if the construction will be done during the shoulder season. Vineyard Wind confirmed that there will be no work in the public roadways during summer.

Tom Sullivan presented a map of Higgins Crowell Road to the Selectmen, noting that the cable is proposed to run through the watershed, and asked if Vineyard Wind has addressed this. Vineyard Wind explained that the cable will be contained in a conduit and not subject to leaching; and once buried, there is no impact to groundwater. Some of the construction protocols for working in the aquifer protection areas were outlined.

Dick Bennett of West Yarmouth asked how deep the cable will be buried, how it will be secured, and the electromagnetic field. He asked for a web page to be built titled "Margins of Safety" showing calculations for the calculated margins of safety. Also, after decommissioning, will the remaining support structures present any problems? The burial depth will be 7-8' but could be deeper if desired or needed. Cables will be inspected annually and reburied if necessary. Removal of the turbine foundations can be more destructive than leaving them in place. Vineyard Wind will consider developing the suggested web page.

Paul Palmerie asked what the timeframe is for land construction. Vineyard Wind hopes to complete 100' – 200' feet per day of work.

David Bernstein of West Yarmouth asked who defines the "issues" that need to get fixed; how much money will be set aside to fix those issues; who decides if Vineyard Wind is responsible for an issue; and what if the company goes bankrupt or is sold. He also noted that the power does not necessarily stay on the Cape, and that there is no amount of money worth the loss of Lewis Bay. Vineyard Wind intends to supply enough energy for 400,000 homes. There are many decision-makers, including regulators and the Town of Yarmouth. Vineyard Wind will try to minimize and mitigate impacts. Mr. Bernstein then spoke in favor of wind and solar power, but not the New Hampshire Avenue landfall location.

Vida Morris of Yarmouth Port suggested Brayton Point as a much better landfall site. Vineyard Wind representatives explained that it is a much greater distance, and complicating geographical and environmental issues along the route make it much more expensive. Ms. Morris also asked about using the Cape Cod Canal power plant as a landing site, but similar problems were cited by Vineyard Wind.

Bob Rinaldo of Lewis Road, West Yarmouth asked for guarantees from Vineyard Wind, and how much the project will cost the Town. He also expressed concern about Lewis Bay. Representatives explained that the Host Community Agreement is the document that would outline the guarantees. Mr. Rinaldo asked who upholds the guarantees when or if Vineyard Wind is sold. The representative stated that the buyer and the federal government (as property owner) would be responsible for the guarantees because the Host Community Agreement lives with the project.

1:55:35 INTERRUPTION IN RECORDING

A resident living near Lewis Bay asked for more public hearings and open houses. She also asked about the depth of the harbor and the depth of the glacial moraine. A Vineyard Wind representative explained that great lengths are taken to bury the cables 6-8' based on mapping and geographical surveys.

Rachel Youngling, President of the Hyannis Park Civic Association, stated that the most recent comprehensive assessment of Lewis Bay was in 1983, and asked for Vineyard Wind's timeline for completing an updated comprehensive assessment of the entire bay and how it will be used to inform the project. A Vineyard Wind representative stated that shallow water studies should be complete this summer.

Roseanne Rose of West Yarmouth expressed concern about the project.

Paul Cove of Mass Avenue, West Yarmouth asked about dredging, the impact of weather, and suggested it would be an ecological disaster. The Vineyard Wind representative stated they are not trying to destroy Lewis Bay.

Jan Kubiak of West Yarmouth asked if there have been problems with underwater power cables in other locations. Vineyard Wind pointed out that there are five cables in Nantucket Sound.

Lisa Cody of South Yarmouth spoke in support of the project and asked what the worst-case scenario would be, or what the typical impacts have been. Vineyard Wind representatives suggested that impacts have been minimal. If a cable broke, there could be a loss of power. Installation of the cable has the biggest impact, which is why there is substantial study and permitting required.

Joyce Flynn offered the assistance of the Energy Committee and presented a 2015 study on cable burial risk assessment and methodology. She asked about the design methodology to prevent the cables from leaking. It was explained that there is no fluid or liquid in the cable, therefore nothing to leak or spill.

A resident asked about the conversations Vineyard Wind is having with shell fishermen in Lewis Bay. Vineyard Wind acknowledged that there will be direct and ancillary impacts to aquaculture during construction. They are proposing mitigation including multi-year efforts to restock the areas, and silt controls.

Marcia Lee of West Yarmouth noted that winter is an important time of year for Lewis Bay.

Susan Brita of West Yarmouth introduced a discussion on why Lewis Bay is still being considered in spite of a 2015 State report citing Lewis Bay as an area to be avoided. She also urged the Board of Selectmen to fully vet the project and get answers to all questions.

2:52:30 INTERRUPTION IN RECORDING

A member of the Yarmouth Energy Committee quoted the Barnstable Patriot and also the Draft Environmental Impact Report, and then asked that Vineyard Wind confirm that neither onshore or offshore cables will contain any fluid. It was confirmed. The Energy Committee member expressed confidence in Vineyard Wind's ability to mitigate impacts.

Nancy Dion Anderson of West Yarmouth stated that the loss of Lewis Bay is a tremendous threat.

b. Questions from the Board:

Selectman Post clarified that it may be possible for Vineyard Wind to bypass local authority, in which case the Town may end up with nothing if it does not enter into an agreement with Vineyard Wind. She asked if Vineyard Wind would be willing to protect Nantucket Sound by not allowing other cables to be laid in its conduits. She also stated that no costs, including legal expenses, should fall on the Yarmouth taxpayers. She asked where negotiations with the Town of Barnstable stand with regard to Covells Beach. Vineyard Wind stated it will agree not to allow any additional cables in its conduits; and to provide funds for legal expenses. Vineyard Wind is working on a Host Community Agreement with Barnstable because the substation is located there.

Selectman Stone stated that legal strategies would be discussed in Executive Session. He asked Vineyard Wind to clarify when the eelgrass was identified at Covells Beach, and why excess cable capacity is planned for conduits if they will not be allowing other utilities or future expansion. Vineyard Wind explained that its responses regarding eel grass were in relation to Egg Island, not Covells Beach. The eel grass there was identified the previous week. Spare ducts are planned onshore to minimize disruption to the roadways if there is a cable failure.

Selectman Forest asked if the Draft Environmental Impact Report was deemed insufficient by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. The Vineyard Wind representative confirmed that it was. Discussion followed on the areas where more information was needed, including the alternatives analysis, survey data, and impact analysis. Selectman Forest explained that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report will be provided by Vineyard Wind in August, followed by reviews by many more federal, state, and local agencies, including the Yarmouth Conservation Commission, before any permits can be issued.

Selectman Holcomb asked about the various negotiations Vineyard Wind is involved with. They include the federal government and utility companies. Vineyard Wind explained some of the various fees they will be paying. Selectman Holcomb asked about dredging, open-trench, and/or HPD. A Vineyard Wind representative explained the pros and cons of various cable-landing methods, noting that they are willing to consider all of them.

3. Mattacheese School Building Project Financing and Possible Vote

Town Administrator Dan Knapik asked to postpone the discussion until further information is available.

4. Town Administrator Items. Town Administrator Dan Knapik thanked the DY staff for hosting the meeting.

a. Consent Agenda. At the request of Selectman Forest, the letter from the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound will be discussed at the meeting on the 24th.

MOTION: To move to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of the letter from the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound.

Motion by: Mike Stone

Seconded by: Mark Forest

Yea 5 Nay 0

5. Adjourn

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Mark Forest

Seconded by: Mike Stone

Yea 5 Nay 0

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Dennehy

DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL AGENDA PACKET

- Emails to Board of Selectmen re: Vineyard Wind
- 2018 BOS Upcoming Agenda Items Schedule
- Memo to BOS from YPD dated July 10, 2018 re: Donation Approval Request
- Authorization for Town Administrator to Sign Proposed Letter of Support re: Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound
- Big Nick's Ride for the Fallen Flyer