

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg and Scott Landry. Joshua Bell and Matthew Smith were unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice Chairman Bunker asked for a moment of silence in sentiment for former Budget Committee member Fred O. Smith who passed away at Maine Medical Center in Portland that morning.

ITEM 2: To Hear from Darryl Wood regarding the Proposed New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Project

Richard Davis explained that Darryl Wood has asked to address the Board of Selectmen on their position with this project, which has not changed since its initial position in favor of this project. He pointed out that in the meantime he has been approached by John Carroll and Thorn Dickerson who would like to come to the next Selectmen's meeting representing Central Maine Power (CMP) and their perspective on this project. Mr. Bunker introduced Darryl Wood, who handed out an information packet. Mr. Wood explained his opposition to the NECEC Project and asked the Selectmen to rescind their support of this project. Scott Landry pointed out that the Town of Farmington initially supported the project with the indication that there would be a tax benefit. He also pointed out that the Town signed on as an intervener with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Comments in opposition to the project were heard from: Walter Gooley; Lorrie Ireland; Troy Hull; Burt Knapp; Russ Christiansen; Sally Speich; Fen Fowler; John Systma; Donna Wheeler; Wayne Deri; Bob Haines; Karyl Condit; Andrew Barton; Rosalie Deri; and Drake Anders. Comments, opinions and concerns in opposition to the project included: no benefits to Farmington; petitions have been signed in an effort to stop the project; no need for this project as Maine has a surplus in power; CMP is an out of country owned corporation; environment and view shed would be harmed irreparably and forever; the few jobs there will be will be temporary and filled by out of state workers; the project will displace existing bioenergy plants and workers; project is not "green"; displaces fish runs; displaces native people in Quebec; harsh chemical herbicides will need to be used to keep the corridor clear, thereby jeopardizing not only the natural habitat but the tourism industry; the project doesn't "pass the smell test"; many Towns have now rescinded their initial support of the project; importance of preservation of natural heritage; CMP has offered no mitigation for the kind of damage that will be done to the natural environment; the global warming issues that will be created; Conservation Commission survey that was conducted on what the trees do for the environment; wildlife uninterrupted space needs and the proposed corridor's impact on that; study that was dropped regarding the 2008 Legislature's vision for the State of Maine to be energy independent in 20 years with income to come from the creation of an energy corridor utilizing the Interstate system to deliver underground DC power to

