

PENNEAST PIPELINE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE

**City Pipeline Committee of Lambertville
City Hall, 8 am
1/25/17 Draft Meeting Notes**

Present

Committee members: Mayor Dave Delvecchio, Judy Detrano, Gina Fischetti, David Fournier, Filomena Hengst, Kelly Kappler, Lauren Rosenthal McManus, and Councilman Wardell Sanders
Members of the public: Cassidy Hendrickson, Jane LaFarge Hamill, Jason Bereswill, and Stephanie Spock

Notes

The meeting began at 8:13 AM. Filomena welcomed the group and announced that our website is up to date with minutes, the final EIS has been delayed a third time. Now the notification of the final EIS has been delayed from Feb. 17 to April 7 with a final Federal Authorization deadline by July 6. Committee discusses that NJDEP seems to have been a major factor in delay. Four members of public were welcomed. Everyone went around and introduced themselves.

Mayor explained that the environment is a priority for us this year. We need to set a date for the public meeting and mentions expansion of third can program through Environmental Commission.

Kelly mentioned a Delaware Riverkeepers Webinar about FERC that will take place tomorrow, January 26 in the evening.

The committee approved January 4 minutes with no changes and set next meeting dates for Feb. 8 at 8 AM and March 1 at 8 AM at City Hall.

Judy, co-chair of Lambertville CAP, asks if Lambertville has the funds for legal action after the final EIS. Mayor Dave responds that we do not have the funds. Judy raised issues that were presented from the area CAP groups' most recent meeting. Judy asked if we have spoken to the local police to make sure we have their support for a protest of PennEast in various locations. After discussion, Mayor clarified that it is not necessary to make a special meeting with the local police to discuss this separately; we would set up a perimeter for protest similar to how bear hunt protests were done in the past. Judy asked if we know who is impacted by PennEast's surveying. She pointed out that when a homeowner is feeling invaded; should be able to call the local police and have support for the homeowner. It was asked what is in our rights to not allow PennEast to cut down trees near Swan Creek Reservoir, along 518, etc.? Judy asked who has jurisdiction over the trees on the road? David Fournier points out it is a scenic byway and Gina mentions the steep slope ordinance. Judy points out other issues to explore, such as what is the impact of the heavy haul roads, what is the responsibility for the joint towns in legal action.

Filomena presented other news including (1) the alternate pipeline route into Bucks County that is recirculating the news/web in response to avoiding Important Bird Areas (IBAs) at Baldpate Mountain. Discussion around the idea that this route was introduced in the Fall and fought by Sierra Club at the time, perhaps it has resurfaced to make the current route "more palatable" since this route would require 4 crossings of the Delaware River rather than just 2 crossings by the current route.

Filomena (2) asks if we would like to sign onto the Delaware Riverkeepers' letter for a permanent ban on fracking in the Delaware (there is currently a moratorium on fracking at state level that will end in 2018 and

DRBC fracking ban that is indefinite). By the end of the meeting, committee agrees to sign on and Ward takes proposed letter to read it over closely to make committee aware of any issues. He will follow up with any issues.

Filomena presented that (3) Solebury Zoning Board hired professionals to do research on fracking in their area. They determined that “rock formations and fault lines in the northern part of the township indicate any gas that might have formed could have leaked out, leaving the southern portion the only likely place gas deposits could be,” but companies would have to be desperate to frack in that area and recommended no changes to Solebury zoning ordinances at this time.

Filomena shared a letter she wrote as an individual using the Rate Counsel’s main arguments from their FERC filings against the (4) South Jersey Pipeline. She said, the proposed pipeline would be 22 miles of 24 inch pipeline through Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties. In 2013 this pipeline was proposed and voted against in 2014. The application was resubmitted in 2015, the executive director pushed it through, and in 2016, the Appellate Division of New Jersey Superior Court ruled that the full Commission must vote. So, there was a public hearing yesterday in Browns Mills and they accepted online letters too. There wasn’t time to run the letter by the committee so Filomena filed it as an individual.

Judy asked if there anything we can do regarding NJDEP. Ward pointed out the meeting that occurred in the Fall with our committee and NJDEP. Filomena mentioned that the actions may be directed toward DRBC with people planning to testify at the DRBC commission meeting after the final EIS.

Upcoming Events:

Public event March/April

- Will not be part of regularly scheduled City Council meeting. It will be a special meeting.
- Contact Cindy about availability of Acme Building
- Invite the Rate Counsel to our meeting
- Include next steps of Final EIS, decision; does the city have a budget for legal action? Answer: No.
- Look into following dates: April 18, April 19, April 20 evening

Winterfest-Ward, Meagan, Filomena, David Fournier will be at corner of Bridge and Union on 1/28 morning – include sign-up sheet at table

Shadfest-Lauren and Kim – April 28, 29, 30- to be discussed at a later time

Filomena circulated sample letter requesting "Consulting Party Status". Committee decided we should submit the letter NHSP to try to take advantage of our right to confidential documents regarding historic impacts.

Other Business: Gina inquired about the status of banners. Ward pointed out funding is more challenging because of new year. Stephanie Spock’s suggested that when someone signs up, they should get information on what is going on. Cassidy remarked that the information she received when she emailed to attend this meeting would be perfect to automatically send to people. Jane Hamill shared that they have maybe had surveyors on their property with blue tape around the trees. They weren’t sure. Dave Fournier shared that with Right of Way there is legal access. If they are doing something on their property, they should call authorities.

Upcoming committee meetings: Feb. 8 and March 1

Meeting ended at 9:03 AM