

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Thursday, January 16, 2025

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

This meeting was recorded.

Others in Attendance: See attendance list.

National Grid Pole Hearing: Continuation of the Burrington Road pole hearing was opened at 6:01 p.m.

Officials representing National Grid (NG) made brief statements to introduce themselves to people at the meeting.

Robyn explained the content of the report sent by NG with the different possible options for routing the current 1019W1 Feeder Reliability Project.

Option 1: Construction up Burrington Road and South Road to the town center.

Option 2: Construction up Avery Brook Road with an estimated cost increase of \$71,000.

Option 3: Construction up Route 8A which was not investigated in detail as it did not meet reliability specifications.

Option 4: Construction up Burrington Road with 600 feet of underground cable with an estimated cost increase of \$350,000.

Option 1 is the most cost effective. NG is obligated to present the least expensive option.

Option 1 would involve relocating 89 poles while Option 2 would mean 54 pole relocations. Both numbers do not include installation of any new poles.

Vegetation trimming is done every five to six years to help reduce outages. For poles that are 40 feet high, vegetation control is done in a ten-foot diameter around the pole.

This project will benefit more towns than just Heath. This project adds a second feeder that comes out of the Bear Swamp generator station. It will provide back feed energy that will benefit Charlemont, Hawley, Monroe, and Rowe in addition to Heath. It is also one of the upgrades that NG is planning as part of the Electric Sector Modernization Plan. It is working toward building for future consumer needs and increased consumer demands of capacity.

If the section in front of Mooney's house is put underground, it would cover a distance of 600 feet and would cost approximately \$350,000. This would be an exception to the current plan and would be subject to approval by DPU.

7:30 p.m. Seeing no further comments or questions, *on a motion by Elissa Viarengo and a second by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to close the pole hearing.*

All three members of the Board voiced their support for the NG project as a whole stating that it shows regard for future demands and allows for growth in the town. After further evaluation and analysis of the presented information, and continued discussion, the Board determined that, while they were in favor of the project, they believed there was a better routing option available than the requested Burrington/South Road path. The Board agreed they were ready to vote on the two requests for pole placements on Burrington Road.

On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and a second by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to not approve project number 30933364 for Burrington Road.

On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and a second by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to not approve project number 30933367 for Burrington Road.

7:43 p.m. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma Sumner
Town Coordinator