

The Legislature of Rockland County



ALDEN H. WOLFE
Vice Chairman
Legislator – District 6

Chair, Environmental Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. A. Wolfe, Chair
Leg. N. Low-Hogan, Vice Chair
Leg. H. Cornell
Leg. C. Carey
Leg. T. Earl
Leg. A. Wieder

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leg. Sparaco

OTHERS PRESENT:

E. Yeger, Esq. E. Preuss
C. Harrison G. Kruse
L. Frankel B. Dillon
M. Granier

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012
5:30 PM

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 28, 2011 AND MARCH 14, 2012

MOTION TO APPROVE:

WOLFE/CORNELL

UNAN

1. REF. #1021 - **URGING MILLENNIUM PIPELINE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) AN ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE PIPELINE OPERATING IN AND THROUGH KAKIAT PARK, AND URGING FERC TO REJECT ANY APPLICATION ABSENT A PLAN FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS (HONS. ALDEN H. WOLFE & DOUGLAS J. JOBSON, LEGISLATURE)**

AMENDMENT: SUBSTITUTE “ALGONQUIN” FOR “MILLENNIUM PIPELINE” IN CAPTION AND ALL OTHER WHEREAS AND RESOLVE CLAUSES

Chair Wolfe explained this referral came about after a resident (Mr. Chris Harrison) contacted him regarding concerns over the Algonquin/Millennium Gas Facility located in Kakiak Park. Chair Wolfe went on to explain that the facility has apparently been recently expanded and there is a plan for further expansion. The only access to the facility is via an easement through Sky Meadow Road. A bridge fords the Mahwah River and apparently the heavy truck traffic has damaged the foundation of the bridge. This is complicated further by persistent flooding at Sky Meadow Road, which periodically cuts off access to the facility. Chair Wolfe stated he was also advised that emergency vehicles may have difficulty accessing the facility via the Sky Meadow Road bridge. Another concern is that the facility is located in a residential area and in close proximity to Viola Elementary School who currently enrolls 437 children. Therefore, it is crucial that the pipeline operators and local emergency personnel have constant and immediate access to the station.

Environmental Committee Minutes

May 9, 2012

Page 2

Gary Kruse, the General Counsel of Millennium, explained that Algonquin Gas Transmission not Millennium owns and operates the natural gas pipeline and facilities servicing the pipeline in and through Kakiat Park. Although there are many companies that actually utilize this station, Algonquin is currently applying to FERC for permission to expand the capacity of their portion of the facility. Chair Wolfe requested the referral be amended substituting "Algonquin" for "Millennium" in the caption and clauses.

Ms. Evelyn Preuse, a resident of Sky Meadow Road submitted a detailed and comprehensive report to FERC relating to the lack of "24/7" emergency access to the existing and proposed new facility at Ramapo Station. Mr. Chris Harrison also went on to explain that he has had conversations with Allan Beers, Environmental Resources Dept. and Mr. Beers is in support of an alternative access road as it would improve safety and create an additional means of accessing the park. He has also been in touch with Dan Greeley and Chris Jensen at Fire and Emergency Services and they are also in support because the additional access point would improve response time in the event of an emergency and generally improve fire safety.

There is a safety concern because of the proximity to homes, the park and Viola Elementary School and Chair Wolfe would like a representative of Algonquin to attend a future meeting of the Environmental Committee to discuss possible solutions for a secondary means of access.

**MOTION TO APPROVE: AS AMENDED UNAN
WOLFE/EARL**

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. LOW-HOGAN, CAREY, CORNELL, EARL, WIEDER

ACTIONS:

- **CLERK TO INVITE ALGONQUIN AND ALLAN BEERS TO THE MAY 30, 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**
- **ALLAN BEERS TO SUPPLY THE COMMITTEE WITH A SUMMARY OF HIS CONTACT WITH ALGONQUIN IN REGARDS TO THE EXPANSION OF THE PRESENT FACILITY AND MR. BEER'S POSITION ON THIS EXPANSION**

2. REF. #1290 - *DISCUSSION ITEM: RECYCLING RECEPTACLES*
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

THIS REFERRAL WAS RESCHEDULED FROM THE MARCH 14TH MEETING

PULLED

3. REF. #2867 - *DISCUSSION ITEM: RCSWMA METHANE GAS FROM CAPPED LANDFILL*
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

PULLED

4. REF. #4124 - *DISCUSSION ITEM: NATIONAL WATER TRAILS SYSTEM*
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

DISCUSSED

ACTION:

- **Legal counsel to research whether the nomination process for the National Water Trails System has been developed yet**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:40 PM UNAN
LOW-HOGAN/WIEDER**