

Gas Pipeline Update

Kinder Morgan has proposed an underground 30-inch, high-pressure gas pipeline to run through 2.73 miles of Brookline as part of a larger project to bring natural gas from Wright, NY to Dracut, MA. The proposed route in Brookline is parallel to the existing power lines which cross Route 13 near the border with Milford.

The current route would impact six parcels of town land that total about 160 acres and were purchased by the Conservation Commission at a cost of over \$571,000.

At March's town meeting, voters approved up to \$80,000 to oppose the pipeline. Additionally, three warrant articles were overwhelmingly passed and each signified opposition to the pipeline.

Since those votes, the following have occurred:

- Brookline has led the creation of the 15-town NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition, which meets bi-weekly at our town hall to coordinate efforts among the towns that would be impacted by the pipeline. It is comprised of a selectboard member or town administrator from each town.
- By the end of August, the Municipal Coalition will have met separately with Senator Shaheen, Senator Ayotte, Congressman Guinta, and Congresswoman Kuster to express our concerns about the pipeline and recommend alternatives for addressing New Hampshire's energy needs.
- The Coalition will also meet with Governor Hassan in early September to similarly express our concerns and seek her opposition to the project.
- Twelve of the Coalition towns have collectively retained an attorney to assist in opposing the pipeline. By sharing the costs over a dozen towns, costs to Brookline taxpayers have been limited and we are benefiting from the strength of representing 12 towns as one.
- The Brookline Pipeline Task Force was chartered by the Selectboard to evaluate options for protecting the Town's interests in response to the pipeline and meets regularly.
- The Town has hired an expert to conduct an environmental impact study of the town's parcels that would be impacted by the pipeline. The study's results provide the town with important information that can be used in the pipeline permitting process to protect valued resources (wetlands, aquifers, rare animals and/or plants).
- Town representatives recently attended two "Scoping Sessions" that were held by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and voiced safety, water quality, and environmental concerns related to the pipeline.

To learn more about the proposed pipeline, go to the "Gas Pipeline Information" link on the town website. If interested in participating in the Town's Pipeline Task Force, please contact Town Administrator Tad Putney at 673-8855 x213 for more details.