

Meeting Between the Selectmen and F.E Wood Natural Energy
10 Feb 2016

1. The Administrative Assistant received on Saturday, 6 Feb, from F.E. Wood Natural Energy, a draft for an advertisement to be submitted to the Shopper's Guide concerning two pellet mill issues to be voted on 12 Mar at the Town Meeting. Neither details of the ad nor the details of the associated articles had been previously discussed between the Board of Selectmen and F.E. Wood Natural Energy. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen requested a special meeting with F.E. Wood Natural Energy to specifically address the statutory process that would be needed to conduct such discussions and the schedule constraints to completing their request by Town Meeting. The meeting was agreed by F.E. Wood Natural Energy on 7 Feb and set for Wed 10 Feb 2016 at the Town Office at 7PM. The meeting was announced to the public on the town website, the sign in front of the town office, and on the town website on Monday 8 Feb. The meeting was also advertised in the Shopper's Guide on Wednesday, 10 Feb 2016.

Attendance:

The Baldwin Board of Selectmen: Gary McNeil, Olin Thomas, Bob Flint
Dean Wood of F.E. Wood Natural Energy

Audience:

Paul Thomas
Norman Blake
Joe Pierce
Fred Miner
Ron Parker
Suzette McLaughlin
Patrick McLaughlin
Kathy Pierce

1. Bob Flint started the meeting by stating the purpose was to start a public dialog between F.E. Wood and the Selectmen concerning the two requests from F.E. Wood on changing their easement across town land and town support for obtaining financial assistance to build a road on the subject easement. Previously, all requests from F.E. Wood on the topics had been last minute requests to submit applications or attend meetings with one-day response times. Bob Flint stated the two issues required town meeting approval and the time necessary to get these issues negotiated with the selectmen in public sessions, presented at a public hearing, and presented at the 12 Mar 2016 Town Meeting was very short.

2. There was a short discussion concerning the existing easement and if the road was intended to be a public or private road. The words of the 20 Sep 2014 article passed at a Special Town Meeting were not conclusive. The town attorney, David Laurie stated his opinion that the article had some issues that should be addressed.

3. There was a short discussion of the requested new location of the easement. A State MDOT Permit Field Specialist had made a visit to Baldwin on 26 Feb 2016, at the request of Tony Wood, to review the proposed new easement location. The attendance at that meeting was:

Tony Wood of F.E. Wood
Olin Thomas - Selectman
Bob Flint - Selectman
Norm Blake - Planning Board

Anthony Fontaine – MDOT Permit Field Specialist
Joe Pierce – Planning Board
Kathy Pierce

Mr. Fontaine subsequently provided an e-mailed report that stated the new location would meet minimum requirements but would create a greater opportunity for vehicular conflict compared to the other easement location. Mr. Fontaine's e-mails report is attached. There was also a discussion among the audience concerning the new easement location. David Laurie, attorney for the Town, indicated in response to a question from the audience that it was his opinion that a change of easement location would only require the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the pellet mill to be amended to address the easement location and any related impacts and not a complete new CUP.

4. Bob Flint talked about the grant application and that it contained an "MOU" which was reported by F.E. Wood to merely indicate that Baldwin did in fact have a business waiting to use the new road and create jobs in the community if the grant was awarded by Cumberland County. Bob mentioned the concern that the F.E. Wood generated wording of the MOU implied a level of agreement between F.E. Wood and the Town of Baldwin concerning the funding, cost sharing, and construction management of the road when in fact there had been no discussions between the Town of Baldwin and F.E. Wood on these topics. Therefore, the Selectmen had required a statement in the MOU that it would be replaced by an Agreement to be reached between the two parties. This agreement needs to be negotiated in public forums before the 27 Feb public hearing. Bob Flint stated that the selectmen believed the agreement should include a requirement that Tony and Dean Wood be liable for any costs the town would be exposed to in conjunction with the grant including any requirement to repay the grant if F.E. Wood failed to generate the pledged new jobs within the specified time.

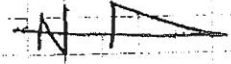
5. A member of the audience questioned if the location of the plant had moved in conjunction with the request for a different easement location. Dean Wood stated that it had not. Some audience members also expressed a preference that these two articles be voted on at the upcoming Town Meeting on 12 Mar and not be put off to a later special town meeting. The Selectmen pledged to put in the effort necessary to make that happen and the next meeting with F.E. Wood was scheduled for 6:30 PM on 18 Feb at the Town Office to begin the discussions.

6. Bob Flint stated that he would generate the pellet mill related adds for the Shopper's Guide to be carried in the next two issues.

Board of Selectmen
Gary McNeil
Olin Thomas
Bob Flint

Anthony M. Wood
Olin Thomas
Robert B. Flint

#15486
 Rte 113, Buxton
 SL 55
 Mainline 11'
 Shldr 6' paved
 12-18-2014
 A Fontaine



Pigeon Brook Rd (West)
 RLM 10.10

2588'
 2602'

Sight Dist LT 891'
 N 43.80751°
 W 70.72840°
 Proposed Entr
 RLM 9.607
 Sight Dist RT 2659'
 Utility Pole 232'

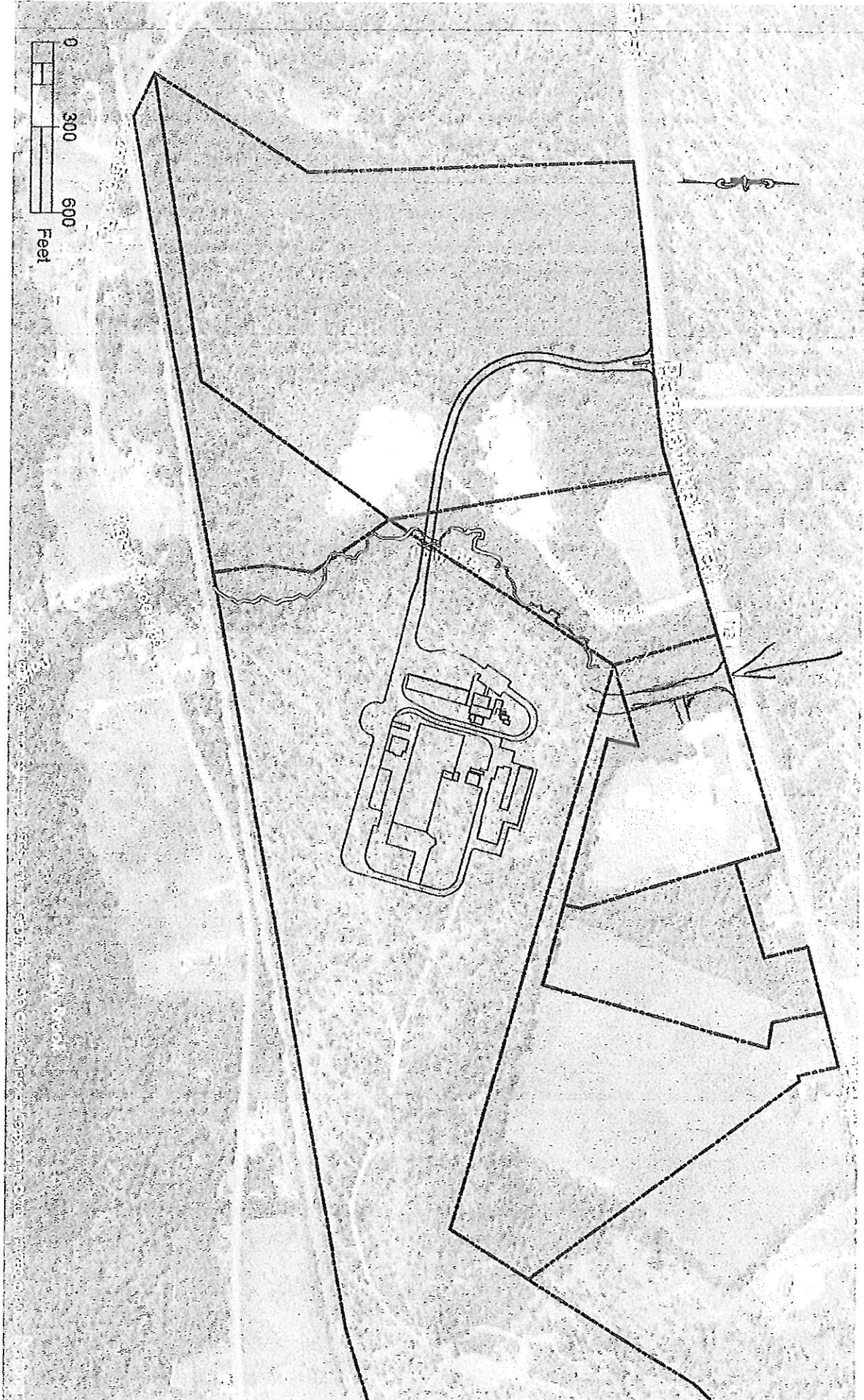
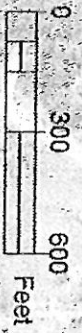
Existing Entr.
 New Cemetery

Existing ENTR.
 Municipal Rt

753'

MaineDOT

MaineDOT



SD RT 1129
SD LT 1167

From: Danielle Taylor <dtaylorbaldwin@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: MaineDOT entrance review / 1-26-2016
Date: January 27, 2016 10:00:27 AM EST
To: Bob Flint <rflint57@gmail.com>, Gary McNeil <gary@dodgeoil.com>, Olin Thomas <othomasjr@roadrunner.com>, Norman Blake <wa1ivb@att.net>, Joe Pierce <unclejo@cpierce.com>, Jason Brown - North <Jbrownchief200@yahoo.com>
▶ 1 Attachment, 491 KB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Fontaine, Anthony <Anthony.Fontaine@maine.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 27, 2016 at 8:46 AM
Subject: MaineDOT entrance review / 1-26-2016
To: "tony@fewoodenergy.com" <tony@fewoodenergy.com>, "dtaylorbaldwin@gmail.com" <dtaylorbaldwin@gmail.com>
Cc: "Soucie, Timothy" <Timothy.Soucie@maine.gov>

Tony and others,

As discussed during our on-site meeting yesterday (1-26-2016) regarding entrance options for use by the town and the proposed wood pellet facility, MaineDOT will be able to issue a Permit at the suggested location westerly of the Consolidated School should an application be submitted. Both it and the location previously approved with Permit #15486 meet the requirements of the Department's Access Management Regulations. The sight distance measurements for both locations are:

Permit #15486

sight distance LEFT – 891'

sight distance RIGHT – 2659'

Proposed location westerly of the school

sight distance LEFT – 1167'

sight distance RIGHT – 1129'

The minimum sight distance required at 55 mph is 570'.

The preferred sight distance for larger vehicles at 55 mph is 855'.

There are no requirements for separation distance between entrances on a Major Collector highway as is route 113.

The above are the Department's objective determinations. Permits are issued solely on black and white measurements. As such, the Department has no issues with an entrance being located at either location. However, from a subjective perspective, I will add that locating an entrance that will handle mostly large vehicle traffic near one handling mostly passenger vehicles does present greater opportunities for vehicular conflict. In an ideal, safety oriented cost-is-no-object situation, having trucks use the location described by Permit #15486 is preferable to the one near the school.

Tony Fontaine

MDOT Permit Field Specialist

207-885-7040

anthony.fontaine@maine.gov



Permit 1548.....pdf (491 KB)