



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

August 8, 2017

Town of Easton
Board of Selectmen
1060 Eastern Village Road
Easton, NH 03580

Re: Reestablishment of Highway Right of Way

Dear Select Board:

We have received your letter dated July 17, 2017, regarding concerns about establishing the right of way (ROW) widths on roads along the proposed northern pass route. NHDOT is requiring Northern Pass to complete a Survey Report that will document and define the type of ROW's in the areas where Northern Pass proposes to be within State roads. The DOT's requirements of the report include that all evidence collected and methods used to accurately define the existing ROWs are identified. This document will be certified by a Licensed Land Surveyor in NH as meeting the required standards for real property surveys. There are several points that you noted that will be considered in our review of the Survey Report. The DOT is aware of the varying types and widths of the ROW in the areas along the proposed route. In our review of that report, we will certainly ensure the areas that you have noted are thoroughly reviewed addressed.

In your letter, you request that the DOT reestablish the ROW in accordance with RSA 228:35. Formal reestablishment of the ROW in this manner is typically only considered when, after thorough investigation, the location of the ROW is not defined and/or there are questions on its location. Before a reestablishment is considered there are many steps in collection of evidence of the existing ROW limits. This includes field surveying, existing property/ROW related features, Title research of State, County and Town historic records, and prescriptive use. All of this information is carefully evaluated as a whole to help identify the most probable ROW location and whether or not reestablishment is to be considered. The Survey Report must compile this information and be completed to the DOT's satisfaction. Northern Pass has not provided this information in a satisfactory format at this time. While we continue to review and question the accuracy of the information provided by Northern Pass, this is different than needing to formally reestablish the ROW.

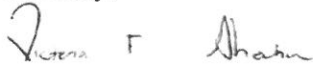
In addition, the Department is continuing to review and furnish comments on plans, as well as requests for exceptions to our standards, from Northern Pass. As our comments are addressed the Department reviews the revisions and replies accordingly. A final alignment and location of the NPT line still needs to be identified and approvals have not been granted. This continues to be an evolving discussion. These submissions include the aforementioned Survey Report as well as requests for waivers to other DOT

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requirements. In most cases a final determination for exceptions has not been made as we await additional information.

I acknowledge and appreciate the concerns expressed regarding the ROW width and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria F. Sheehan".

Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

cc: W. Cass
D. Rodrigue
C. Schmidt
M. Esterberg
Town of Franconia
Town of Sugar Hill