

MINUTES  
Albion Transmission Committee  
March 10, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

**Present:** Tracy Tuttle, Charlie Hall, Lance Stewart, Eric Rolfson, Holly Noyes, Marilyn Kenyon

*OLD BUSINESS*

*I. ISO New England's Recent Request For Proposals for Northern Maine Transmission Lines*

[https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100030/2025\\_http\\_rfp\\_proposal\\_summaries\\_rev1\\_clean.pdf?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100030/2025_http_rfp_proposal_summaries_rev1_clean.pdf?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

The group discussed current issues with ISO-NE, including the five bidders for the current RFP and seven-figure salaries for their President and other "not-for-profit" executives. We also talked about how New Hampshire is considering withdrawing from the organization.

**[Update:** Since our meeting, ISO-NE has reduced the number of eligible bidders from five to two. Also, Governor Kelly Ayotte called for reforms to the regional electricity market rule that has driven up regional energy costs by nearly one billion dollars over the past ten months. The costly policy is explained in this [Substack Post](#) by Tanya Blanchard.]

*II. National Grid Ventures Meeting Follow-up*

We discussed our meeting with National Grid, especially the information they promised to send us but never did. We also underlined the fact that they were unaware of Albion's Transmission Line Ordinance. The group determined that Eric should write them a letter reiterating the above. A letter to the PUC at the appropriate time was also agreed upon.

**[Update:** National Grid was one of the bidders that has been eliminated by ISO-NE for the current RFP. Thus, there is no need to write them. We will begin drafting the letter to the PUC now that the new ordinances are in place.]

- III. *Two Informative Information Sources (You Can Subscribe Here For Free):*  
<https://landownersvoicemaine.substack.com>

<https://www.protectmainefarmland.org>

Eric again shared these two Substack sources for current information and also encouraged the group to become members of Preserve Rural Maine (PRM) if they haven't already. (<https://preserveruralmaine.org>) PRM currently has 1,000+ subscribers on a Facebook group but only about 150 members. Additional members will increase the chances that PRM be granted "intervenor status" when critical lawsuits are being litigated. Intervenor status in Maine allows non-parties with a direct interest in a lawsuit or administrative proceeding to officially join as parties, rather than being excluded from "confidential" proceedings.

#### *NEW BUSINESS*

- I. *Answers to Open Policy Questions: Energy Facility Ordinances*

The group reviewed the dozen questions posed by the Town's attorney and developed recommendations for each.

**[Update:** These recommendations were approved by the Selectmen and delivered to the attorneys so that they could finalize the ordinances.]

- II. *Final Versions of Ordinances to Adopt at Town Meeting*

The two Ordinances were reviewed and approved by the committee, pending the updates the attorneys will make.

**[Update:** The ordinances were both approved by the town during the 3/21/26 Town Meeting. Eric and Tim Sawtelle spoke several times prior to the meeting about his concerns with the ordinances, as written. Eric invited Tim to a future meeting, agreed to review his concerns with the Committee, and recommended we adjust the ordinances when next updated. Specifically, Tim felt:

- 1) The ordinances lack a definition for "Conventional Energy Generation."
- 2) 50kW is a small generator for supplying a light industrial or commercial business. If we continue to use kW for defining the difference between "non-utility scale" and "utility scale," we should consider increasing that threshold to 200kW or higher.
- 3) It is unclear whether a business with a grid-tie (net metering) connection to the utility that also had batteries and a supplemental generator (50kW,

for ex.) would be impacted by this ordinance. If so, the application fees and operating license fees would be prohibitive to small businesses.

In his remarks at town meeting, Eric stressed that the intent of the recent ordinances was to address "Utility Scale" generation, transmission, and storage that passes through Albion for the benefit of non-town recipients, rather than renewable energy installations used in Albion by residents and/or businesses. Also mentioned was that this is a complex and evolving topic, and that we expect ordinances to be updated and amended, as needed.】

### *III. Defeat of LD 2174 and Next Steps*

We discussed the testimony and vote on LD 2174. Introduced in Maine's 131st Legislature by Rep. Christopher Kessler (D-South Portland), the bill would have nullified any municipal ordinance regulating solar energy, wind energy, battery storage systems, or high-impact electric transmission lines that was more stringent than state law, rendering such ordinances void and of no legal effect. Critics argued the bill was an unconstitutional attack on Maine's Home Rule tradition. It was ultimately rejected unanimously by the Legislature's Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

We also discussed how important it is to stay aware of these kinds of bills which often are proposed and amended at short notice.

A letter sent by Preserve Rural Maine to Representative Kessler prior to the vote is attached to these minutes.

### *IV. Other?*

The group determined not to have an April meeting and to begin meeting on the first Tuesday of each month rather than the second Tuesday. **Thus, our next meeting will be at the Besse Building on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:00 PM.**

Meeting adjourned 6:50 PM

Enc.