

NEWS NOW ks at Gomes Elementary in New Bedford ... Wetlands at Eversource site shaping up to be bigger issue in Acushnet ...

ACUSHNET

Wetlands at Eversource site shaping up to be bigger issue in Acushnet

Share icons: Email, Print, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Pinterest, StumbleUpon, Comment (0), Tweet (1)

» RELATED CONTENT

- Residents, officials have long list of LNG concerns for feds
- Familiar concerns bubble up again at Acushnet LNG hearing
- Hurdle arises for Eversource LNG/natural gas pipeline and storage project...

By **Steve Urbon** [Follow](#)

Posted May. 24, 2016 at 8:46 PM

By **Steve Urbon** [Follow](#)

Posted May. 24, 2016 at 8:46 PM

ACUSHNET — The extent of wetlands on property slated for a huge LNG terminal is shaping up as a contentious issue.

Eversource Energy, the company that wants to locate the liquefied natural gas terminal on its property on Peckham Road, has withdrawn a wetlands map it had submitted to the town and is now in the process of preparing another one, Conservation Agent Merilee Kelly told the LNG Advisory Committee on Tuesday evening.

She said the last officially approved 2008 wetlands delineation of the Eversource property showed more wetlands than a map done last year. Eversource has withdrawn a map it had produced last year together with the town and is now expected to file a new one by June.

But this latest delineation is being done without town officials participation because there is no application pending at the moment. Kelly said the town will have wait to check on the accuracy of the company's wetlands map until it is officially filed with the Conservation Commission.

Kelly was among the latest specialists invited to talk with the LNG committee. Its chairman, Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher, remarked that it is becoming apparent the town, with its limited resources, is not prepared to properly review many of the documents that will be produced in the application to build a 6.8 billion cubic-foot LNG storage facility on the 250 acres off Peckham Road. Experts will have to be brought in to peer review the company's expert opinions.

While the town will want to hire its own professionals to review reports and documents, money is becoming tight as evidenced by the bare-bones budget that passed Town Meeting on Monday after months of difficult cuts.

Henry Young, the town planner, told the LNG panel there is no doubt that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has the power to overrule the town's zoning, which has the project's property listed as residential.

COUPON OF THE WEEK

\$50 off with any trade in when you purchase a Handy Andy's Quality Vac. Vacuum cleaner

\$50 off with any trade in when you purchase a Handy Andy's... Handy Andy's Quality Vacuum Cleaners

SEE ALL ONLINE TODAY [MORE >>](#)

TOP JOBS

Executive Chef
Fairhaven, Fairhaven, USA South Coast Today Classified Ad

Direct Support Professional, Assistance Residence Director, LPN
New Bedford, New Bedford, USA South Coast Today Classified Ad

Automotive Detailers
New Bedford, New Bedford, USA South Coast Today Classified Ad

Customer Service
New Fairhaven, New Fairhaven, USA South Coast Today Classified Ad

But the Conservation Commission cannot be trumped by FERC, and that, said Gallagher, means that "you are a player" with real authority, to some degree, over what the project proponents can do.

There is, however, the real possibility that Eversource will appeal the wetlands matter to the state Department of Environmental Protection, which will decide the matter.

The town planner said the town needs to push for what is called Qualitative Risk Assessment, a tougher review process produced in 2015 than the relatively simple one being used by FERC since 2001. The tougher review, however, was developed by the National Fire Protection Association, yet has not been put into law, so technically there is no requirement that Eversource do anything more than the 2001 requirements.

Young said that the town will need to see what the project's worst case scenario will look like, but since there is no complete application yet, the town will need to wait before it can decide how it will respond and what effects the project might have toward public safety.

The town should hire an outside consultant to review the Eversource risk assessment to check the report's validity, Young said.

Follow Steve Urbon on Twitter @SteveUrbonSCT.

» Comment or view comments

Top Video Headlines

of 3



TV GUIDE


	The Voice: Who Won Season 10?		Dancing with the Stars Crowns its Season 22 Winner!
---	--------------------------------------	--	--

» READER REACTION

Login with:



0 Comments

 Write your comment here

Submit

TOP HOMES

- Freetown, Massachusetts – \$209,900 – Charming 2 bedroom spacious Cape, offers a country setting with eat-in kitchen, dining room, separate living room with sliders to a bright and...
- New Bedford, Massachusetts – \$549,215 – Not a Drive by -- Rare find in Far North End of City, large 60 ft long by 44 ft wide home, built with quality in mind, unique features as: Large...

More Top Homes

» STAY INFORMED



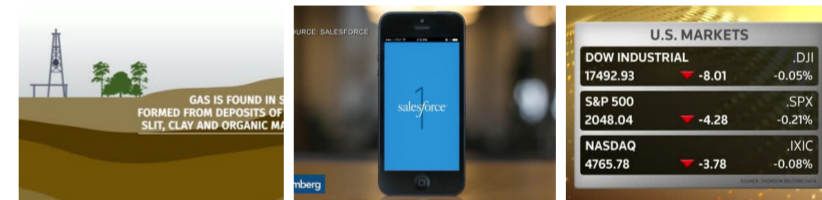
Email Newsletter

Sign Up Today

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.



More videos:



» LOOK AT THIS

- Hawking Admits to Taking These Brain Boosting Supplements
- Controversial 'Genius Pill' Used By Millionaires
- How Melissa McCarthy Shed a Shocking 50 Pounds in 30 Days
- CIA Insider Warns: Don't Buy Gold
- Say Goodbye To Snoring, Say Hello To Sleep
- 2 Credit Cards Are Offering 0% Interest Until 2018
- Transferring Your Card Balance to a 21-Month 0% APR Is Ingenious
- A Card With No Interest for 21 Months to Help You Get Out of Debt
- The Best Credit Cards of 2016
- A Jaw-Dropping 21 Month 0% Interest Rate Card Has Been

» **TOP CLICKS**

POPULAR

EMAILED

🔑 3 arrested in drug raid in New Bedford's North End [May 24, 2016](#)

🔑 New Bedford woman overdoses for third time, second time in two weeks [May 20, 2016](#)

Investigation launched after drunk New Bedford bar patron dropped his pistol [May 23, 2016](#)

Three thieves hit New Bedford woman in head, steal her purse [May 20, 2016](#)

🔑 Fairhaven police arrest woman driving erratically while injecting heroin [May 24, 2016](#)

🔑 Third ousted administrator in 6 months sues GNB Voc-Tech [May 24, 2016](#)

SOUTHCOAST DIRECTORY**Featured Businesses**

[Prestige Auto Mart Inc](#)
[Cape Cod Healthcare](#)
[Regal House Classic Furniture](#)
[Tile Craft](#)
[Partners Village Store](#)

Find SouthCoast Attractions ▼

Search business by keyword

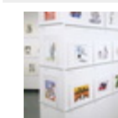
Search

[Add your business here +](#)

» **EVENTS CALENDAR**

WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

**Loops/Links**

11:00 am

Gallery 65 on William

**South Coast Artists Show**

11:00 am

Gallery X

**"Stay Fit & Healthy After 50" health fair**

12:30 pm

Hawthorn Medical Associates

**Freetown VFW Bean Bag Toss**

7:00 pm

Freetown Memorial Post 6643

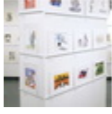




**Zoe Lewis & Barbara Phaneuf Concert**

7:00 pm

[More Events »](#)

[Add Events »](#)

Events by [eviesays.com](#)

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
<i>Wednesday, May 25, 2016</i>						
	Loops/Links					<i>11:00 am</i>
Gallery 65 on William						
	South Coast Artists Show					<i>11:00 am</i>
Gallery X						
	"Stay Fit & Healthy After 50" health fair					<i>12:30 pm</i>
Hawthorn Medical Associates						
	Freetown VFW Bean Bag Toss					<i>7:00 pm</i>
Freetown Memorial Post 6643						
	Zoe Lewis & Barbara Phaneuf Concert					<i>7:00 pm</i>
More Events »			Add Events »			
Events by eviesays.com						



Connect with southcoasttoday.com

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[RSS](#)

[Back to top](#)

Reader Services

- [New Subscriptions](#)
- [Manage Your Subscription](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Submissions

- [Photos](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [Corrections](#)
- [Announcements & Obits](#)
- [Story Ideas](#)

Alerts

- [Email Alerts](#)
- [Text Alerts](#)

Advertise

- [Media Kit](#)
- [Products & Services](#)
- [Ad Rates](#)
- [Advertising Contacts](#)

Stay Informed



[Email newsletter](#)

[Sign Up Today](#)

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.

Your privacy is important, read our [privacy policy](#).

[Propel Marketing](#) | [SouthCoastToday.com](#) | [SouthCoastHouseandHome.com](#) | [SouthCoastJobMart.com](#) | [Blogs](#)
[Classified Marketplace](#)

© Copyright 2016 Local Media Group, Inc. All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Local Media Group Publications](#)
 Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.
southcoasttoday.com | 25 Elm Street, New Bedford, MA 02740