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## PROTECT SUDBURY MEETS WITH SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS MATTHEW BEATON

MAY 11, 2016 - Protect Sudbury, Inc. met today with Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew Beaton, to discuss the non-profit group's concern over a proposed transmission line project slated to run through residential neighborhoods, historic districts, and protected conservation lands. Representing Protect Sudbury were Ray Phillips, President, Chris Hamilton, Director and Sandee Tisdale, Member.

Secretary Beaton extended the invitation to Protect Sudbury to meet at the Boston office of the EEA after hearing from members of the Protect Sudbury Community. The Eversource transmission line proposal calls for the installation of 100 foot tall monopoles strung with 115Kv wires along a 4.5 miles stretch of abandoned rail bed that cuts through the heart of Sudbury.

"We were impressed with Secretary Beaton's knowledge of, and interest in, our organization, and his willingness to listen to our concerns," said Hamilton. "This project, if allowed, would have a traumatic impact on our neighborhoods, wetlands, and conservation areas. We asked Secretary Beaton to exercise the power of his office to urge Eversource to employ a more thoughtful approach to meeting its objectives and to thoroughly explore less-destructive alternatives prior to submitting this project to the siting board. We also extended an invitation to the Secretary to hike the trails that are threatened by this project and see first-hand what a dramatic effect the proposed clear cutting would have on these valued and protected spaces."

Secretary Beaton, a self-avowed outdoorsman, oversees the Commonwealth's six environmental, natural resource, and energy regulatory agencies. Secretary Beaton was keenly aware of the challenges the town of Sudbury faces and he was particularly interested in learning more about less-destructive alternatives brought to his attention by Protect Sudbury. "We hope that this will be the first of several meetings with the Secretary's office to address our community's concerns. Secretary Beaton was accessible and willing to listen. It is nice to know that we have public officials who value the natural resources of this Commonwealth," said Ray Phillips. Protect Sudbury's *mission* is to preserve and protect the environment, health, safety, and historic character of the town.

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