

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
PLANNING BOARD
January 24, 2022**

Minutes of the Town of Pittsford Planning Board meeting held on January 24, 2022 at 6:30PM local time. The meeting took place with Board members participating remotely using Zoom.

PRESENT: Kevin Morabito, Paula Liebschutz, Dave Jefferson, Sarah Gibson, John Limbeck, John Halldow

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Munzinger, Town Board Liaison, Robert Koegel, Town Attorney, Douglas DeRue, Director of Planning, Zoning & Development, April Zurowski, Planning Board Secretary

ATTENDANCE: There were 51 members of the public present.

Chairman John Limbeck made a motion to call the meeting to order seconded by Board Member Kevin Morabito. Following a unanimous voice vote, the meeting opened at 6:30PM.

NEW HEARINGS:

Robert Burgdorf, of Nixon Peabody, and as agent for Verizon Wireless, introduced the applications. Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon is applying for nine utility poles and one monopine to serve as cellular facilities. He stated that of the nine utility poles proposed, six will add equipment to existing poles or will replace existing poles and three will be placed in locations where there is no current pole. The proposed monopine will be placed on property belonging to Transfiguration Church and will appear as a stealth tree, similar to sites already in effect within the Town. Mr. Burgdorf proceeded, stating that photo simulations, site maps, and coverage maps will be presented to the Board and the public within this meeting. Verizon Radio Frequency Engineer Mike Crosby, explained the current state of coverage and capacity limits within the region of the proposed towers.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck stated to the public that the Board will discuss each site, but will open one general hearing for all. However, the Board will vote separately on each site.

Robert Burgdorf asked Emily McPherson, of Airosmith Development, to begin the presentation for the total ten sites. Doug DeRue, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development, asked Mr. Burgdorf to give specific addresses for each site, suspecting some may have confusing names. Mr. Burgdorf explained that in some cases the names of the sites may not be as accurate as the address.

Mike Crosby explained to the public that two main drivers for cellular service are capacity and coverage. He stated that current service in the area is over capacity and there are gaps in coverage. He stated that Verizon is proposing a hybrid system of large cell sites and small cell sites, macro and micro. Higher frequencies cannot serve as large of a geographical area. Mr. Crosby pointed out how proposed cell sites would cover gaps in the current coverage map. Mr. Burgdorf stated that the region is experiencing too much traffic, therefore Verizon has

determined more is needed. He stated that more micro sites, like the proposed utility poles, may mean less macro sites needed in the future.

Robert Burgdorf and Emily McPherson began showing photo simulations and site plans for each site in this order: "Baynard Court" 439 Thornell Rd, "Lusk Recreation" 15 Knickerbocker Rd, "Northfield Gate" 200 Mendon Center Rd, "Paddington Place" 320 Mendon Rd, "Pebble Creek" 398 Mendon Rd, "Saddlebrook" 110 Mendon Center Rd, "Stuyvesant Rd" 85 Stuyvesant Rd, "Vantage Dr" 2 Vantage Dr, Wind Mill Rd" 21 Wind Mill Rd, "Thornell Rd" 50 W Bloomfield Rd.

Mr. Burgdorf touched upon already received public comments with concerns about the "Stuyvesant Rd" and "Thornell Rd" locations. He stated that Verizon was unable to attach equipment to an already existing utility pole in the Stuyvesant Rd area, and that any suggestions for a better location are appreciated. Mr. Burgdorf stated that the "Thornell Rd" site, located on property owned by Transfiguration Church, which is proposed for a stealth tree, would have more flared branches than what appears in current photo simulations. He informed the Board and the public that all antennae would be hidden with branches and that other providers may be interested in adding to the tree.

Board Member Paula Liebschutz questioned the proposed height increase for each of the nine utility poles. Ms. McPherson stated that the height change will range from 1.5ft to 8ft increase.

Robert Burgdorf stated that Verizon is attempting to navigate more proposed sites besides those in the presentation, but future proposals will not be presented at this time.

Chairman John Limbeck asked other members of the Board if there were any questions or comments to address with the applicant. Board Member Paula Liebschutz stated that she had driven past each of the proposed sites and had concerns with the current proposed location of the monopine within the Church's property. She suggested that moving the monopine further south may reduce visual impact while still remaining within Church property. She is also concerned with the current proposed location of the "Stuyvesant Rd" site.

Board Member Sarah Gibson asked the applicant if a bell tower stealth facility was suggested, similar to an already implemented site at 123 S. Main St. Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon will support the community and landlord recommendations for location or structural changes, as long as suggestions still provide service to the region.

Jackie Bartolotta, of Tectonic Engineering & Surveying Consultants P.C., stated that the Church would prefer the monopine to be located behind the existing garage, in efforts to hide equipment. Board Member Sarah Gibson asked if anyone from the Church was addressed about the possibility of a bell tower. Ms. Bartolotta stated that the Church was not interested in other options for a stealth facility and that a monopine near the existing tree line was preferred. Board Chairman Limbeck questioned why currently active Verizon equipment cannot be upgraded to reduce capacity and coverage issues. Mr. Crosby stated that all current sites have been through modernization and that sites are currently maxed out. Chairman Limbeck raised concern that Verizon has made the assumption that these sites will have negligible visual impacts. He stated that added equipment to existing utility poles, new utility poles, and a monopine have large visual impacts. Chairman Limbeck thanked Verizon for supplying additional photo simulations and mentioned that flaring out antennae branches on the monopine appears better than the previous design. He stated that the Board may lean towards a bell tower instead of the monopine.

Chairman John Limbeck asked the applicant if existing utility poles will need modifications to raise existing power lines to accommodate Verizon equipment. Emily McPherson explained that there is no need for modifications to adjust power line height, so long as the lines remain within a specific height range on the pole.

Chairman Limbeck raised concern that electrical panels and meters may obstruct the sight line from within homes. Kathy Pomponio of Verizon Wireless stated that the utility company gives requirements and standards for the height of power boxes on utility poles. She acknowledged that micro facilities may be considered less intrusive than macro facilities, all the while benefiting service within the area. Chairman Limbeck asked the applicant to identify how residents benefit from the addition of these sites. Mr. Burgdorf identified the benefit of increased service for neighbors. In the instance of the proposed monopine, the Church will be paid rent. Chairman Limbeck questioned payment for other sites within the right-of-way. Mr. Burgdorf stated that the Federal Communications Commission regulates rent within the right-of-way. For existing poles, the owner of the utility pole will be paid rent.

Chairman Limbeck questioned the amount of trenching that will occur to accommodate power sources. Ms. Pomponio stated that some trenching will occur.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Board Member John Halldow. Following a unanimous voice vote, the hearing was opened.

Town Attorney Robert Koegel prefaced public comments by asking residents to refrain from repetitive statements, health, and market value concerns. He stated that Planning Board approvals surrounding cellular facilities are subject to the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This Federal law includes specific regulations including time constraints for approvals and denies the Planning Board allowance to take health concerns of radio emissions into consideration, so long as the applicant can provide documentation that proposed equipment meets FCC standards. He advised that public comments pertain to current service within the area, suggestions for location or stealth changes, and aesthetics.

Chairman John Limbeck stated that the Planning Board has received numerous emails and written comments regarding the application, each of which are given equal weight to public comments heard within this meeting.

Roger Brant, of 37 Coddington Grove, and 35-year member of Transfiguration Church, stated that the Church has been in discussion with Verizon regarding the type of stealth facility proposed, a monopine. Collectively, the Church objected to the option of a bell tower and instead favored the monopine proposal. He stated that service in the area is weak, from his experience. He requested that the Planning Board consider the current location, stating that the monopine would support the Church.

Nicole Jenney, of 20 Guilford Way, stated that, from her experience, she is unable to receive any service at all. She raised concern that in the instance of an emergency, she would be unable to call for assistance. In all, she stated that she favored the monopine and did not raise concern with the other utility pole sites.

Colin McCready, of 85 Stuyvesant Road, mentioned that there are currently no utility poles in front of homes within the neighborhood. He recommended the pole be relocated onto one of three existing utility poles within close distance. Mr. McCready raised concern regarding neighborhood aesthetics. He stated that he was not opposed to increased cellular service in the area, but asked the Planning Board to consider other locations.

Tim Laemmermann, of 25 Copper Woods, stated that he has weak service in Hopkins Park, especially near the playground and soccer fields. He asked the Planning Board to consider safety concerns around weak cellular service.

Kevin Marren, of 69 Stuyvesant Road, asked Mr. Koegel to explain how the Planning Board is addressing the State Environmental Quality Review Act process for this application. He recommended the Town and Planning Board consider concerns from other agencies. Robert

Koegel stated that when an application is received that may impact the environment, the Planning Board must follow the SEQRA regulations and undertake the review itself before a resolution can be made. There is one involved agency in this instance, which will serve as the lead agency, the Planning Board. Other entities may be interested, but none have discretionary permitting authority, therefore they cannot be the lead agency. Under SEQRA, this application is an Unlisted Action, meaning there is no category to fit into. The applicant has completed the SEQRA form and the Town and Planning Board will review prior to a resolution. In order to approve, the Board must resolve a negative declaration.

Perry Humphrey, of 11 Muirfield Court, agreed with comments made by Mr. McCready, recommending the Planning Board to consider alternate locations for the "Stuyvesant Rd" site. He stated that he experiences weak service and working from home is difficult. Mr. Humphrey asked to view photo simulations and the site plan for this proposal. Mr. DeRue recommended that anyone interested please contact Planning Board Secretary April Zurowski.

Nancy Consol, of 82 Stuyvesant Road, raised concerns of visual impacts from the proposed "Stuyvesant Rd" site. Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon will look into relocating this site. He stated that moving the proposed utility pole behind homes would pose the issue of an access route to the site. Ms. Consol stated that Rochester Gas and Electric can access their poles behind homes in the region.

Rose Volker, on behalf of Transfiguration Church, stated that the Church has no opposition for a monopine and strengthened service.

Voirrey Moulton, of 491 Mendon Road, stated that the proposed monopine will have unfavorable visual impacts. From his home, he is in direct sight of the Church's garage and therefore the monopine, if approved. He raised concern for the height of the tree, mentioning that others along the tree-line do not reach a comparable height of 95 feet. Mr. Moulton stated that when driving down Barker Road, he does not experience signal loss or weak service. However, he has had some experience of weak service on Mendon Road. Mr. Moulton acknowledged other monopines in Pittsford, commending the Board for the Knickerbocker Road monopines. He asked the Board to consider relocating the proposal to the reservoir or other end of Church property.

Al Fransen, of 87 Stuyvesant Road, stated that RG&E replaced a utility pole recently and was able to complete work by driving trucks back behind homes. He raised concerns about neighborhood aesthetics.

Greg Ewing, of 18 Lawton Road, objected to the application.

Holly Moynihan, of 15 Wind Mill Road, questioned why existing utility poles in the area were not considered. She asked the applicant to identify the requirement for the minimum distance a cellular facility must be from residents.

Planning Board Chairman Limbeck stated that the public hearing will remain open at this time. He advised the public that the next scheduled meeting will take place on February 14, 2022. He thanked the public for their comments and asked the applicant to take comments and questions into consideration. Chairman Limbeck reminded the public that further statements for the Board can be forwarded to Ms. Zurowski.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Chairman John Limbeck reminded the Board of the required Sexual Harassment training and asked members to complete at their earliest convenience.

APPROVED Minutes 01-24-22

The minutes of December 13, 2021 were approved following a motion by Chairman John Limbeck, seconded by Board Member Paula Liebschutz. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

Kate Munzinger, Town Board Liaison, stated that she will remain the Town Board Liaison for the duration of 2022.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck motioned to close the meeting at 8:11 PM, seconded by Planning Board Member Sarah Gibson, and was approved by a unanimous voice vote, no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

April Zurowski
Planning Board Secretary

OFFICIAL MINUTES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE PLANNING
DEPARTMENT