

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD  
PLANNING BOARD  
February 14, 2022**

Minutes of the Town of Pittsford Planning Board meeting held on February 14, 2022 at 6:30PM local time. The meeting took place with Board members participating remotely using Zoom.

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

**ABSENT:** Dave Jefferson

**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 30 members of the public present.

Chairman John Limbeck made a motion to call the meeting to order seconded by Board Member Paula Liebschutz. Following a unanimous voice vote, the meeting opened at 6:35PM.

**CONTINUED HEARINGS:**

**Verizon Wireless - Series of 10 Cell Facility Applications**

Robert Burgdorf, of Nixon Peabody LLC and as agent for Verizon Wireless, gave the Planning Board and the public a brief update of the series of applications for cellular sites. The McCreadys, of 85 Stuyvesant Rd, have had discussions with Verizon, Town Supervisor Bill Smith, and Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck. Mr. Burgdorf stated that there will be more deliberation regarding two of the proposed sites: 85 Stuyvesant Rd and 50 West Bloomfield Rd. The monopine proposed for 50 West Bloomfield Rd, the Church of the Transfiguration, may require additional landscaping consideration and possibly relocation within the property. Verizon Wireless and the Planning Board agreed to table both sites for a future meeting in efforts to reach the best solution. Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon has had discussion with Rochester Gas & Electric in regards to the Stuyvesant Rd proposal and is attempting to relocate the pole closer to existing RGE poles. Deliberation will continue in the meantime.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck mentioned three questions that are still unknown regarding the project. He asked Verizon to address the legally required distance the utility pole must be from a residence. Mr. Burgdorf responded stating that each site will be certified with Federal Communications Commission limits as a condition of approval for each site. He was unsure of the exact number, but knew that all sites were below the legal distance limit. Mr. Burgdorf stated that information will be supplied in the Radio Frequency Safety Report.

Chairman Limbeck asked Mr. Burgdorf to outline Verizon's plan to paint equipment. Mr. Burgdorf stated that equipment will be painted accordingly to blend with each pole.

Chairman Limbeck asked Mr. Burgdorf to address the required height for mounted equipment on each utility pole. He expressed concern that meter boxes or other equipment would be placed within the line of sight. Emily McPherson, of Airosmith Development and as agent for Verizon Wireless, stated that the bottom of mounted equipment will be placed approximately 10

to 13 feet from the base of the pole. Some equipment may be placed higher on the utility pole, but the height depends on RGE's decision.

General Municipal Law Section 239-m requires cellular facility applications to be sent to Monroe County Development Review. Mr. Burgdorf asked the Town when it expects the County to respond with comments on the application. Doug DeRue, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development, stated that he hopes to receive comments by the next Planning Board meeting, February 28th, but it may be longer depending on the County's procedure. Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon will work towards making amendments to other sites and has voluntarily tabled some sites and extended the shot clock.

Chairman John Limbeck asked Verizon to address the proposed height of the meter box on the utility pole. Ms. McPherson stated that the meter height is set approximately 5 feet from the base, allowing a RGE technician to read it from ground-level.

Mr. DeRue asked Verizon to address the reasoning behind the number of sites proposed. He asked Verizon to answer capacity and coverage issues within the proposed areas. Mike Crosby, Radio Frequency Engineer on behalf of Verizon Wireless, stated that existing sites have overloaded capacity and lack the needed geographical coverage. He stated that narrow bandwidths and frequencies are overloaded. Shorter wavelengths cannot travel as far to provide enough coverage. Verizon plans to densify the network to give more coverage and reduce each site's capacity. Mr. Crosby stated that radio frequency engineers, like himself, look at heavy traffic areas and try to determine a proposed site with the least amount of impact to the community while still providing coverage.

Chairman John Limbeck asked Verizon if more clusters were in the works for future applications within the Town. Mike Crosby informed the Board and the public that no future clusters are planned at this time, but more may be needed in the future. Verizon will continue to consider more utility pole sites in the future when cellular planning.

Planning Board Member Sarah Gibson asked Verizon to specify a timeline for this proposal. Kathy Pomponio, Verizon Consultant, expressed concern with current supply chain issues, but emphasized the urgent need for cellular coverage in the proposed region. Ms. Pomponio stated that the timeline for equipment installation depends on if maintenance is required to existing poles. She stated that Verizon expects to begin construction as soon as proposals are approved by the Planning Board, hopefully providing coverage by the end of 2022.

Chairman John Limbeck asked Mr. Burgdorf to explain what deliberations are occurring surrounding the monopine proposed at the Church of Transfiguration, 50 West Bloomfield Rd.

Mr. Burgdorf suggested that Mr. Crosby and Bill Johnson, Consulting Radio Frequency Engineer for the Town, speak to resolve technical issues with the monopine. Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon is currently pursuing a possible alternate site, and is attempting communication with the landowner. An unofficial landscaping plan for the Church site is being revised in the meantime.

Chairman Limbeck welcomed public comments for the proposals and stated that the public hearing for these sites will remain open at this time.

Andrew and Alyson Grossman, of 10 Muirfield Court, expressed concern for the Stuyvesant Rd proposal. Mr. Grossman stated that in his experience, neighbors are opposed to the currently proposed location.

Perry Humphrey, of 11 Muirfield Court, asked if the proposed equipment will be utilized if Verizon incorporates 5G wireless service within the Town in the future. Mike Crosby informed

Mr. Humphrey that existing network issues are with 4G service, and that Verizon is focused on trying to fix that. He stated that 5G would require different antennas and equipment.

Kevin Ryan, of 619 Mendon Rd, stated that he experiences no service within the area. He was not opposed to the monopine proposal as it was presented at the January 24th Planning Board meeting.

Marcos and Alexandra Filgueiras, of 17 Muirfield Court, were opposed to any visible site near the walking path between Stuyvesant Rd and Muirfield Court.

Tom Laemhermann, of 25 Copper Woods, expressed safety concerns with the current cellular service within the area.

Linda Ratliff, of 24 Muirfield Court, stated her opposition to the Stuyvesant Rd proposal.

Monique Spindelman, of 4 Cedarwood Circle, expressed her opposition to the proposals.

Nancy Kitching, of 15 Muirfield Court, asked Chairman Limbeck to describe his meeting with members of the public. Chairman Limbeck stated that Supervisor Smith and he met with the McCreadys, of 85 Stuyvesant Rd regarding the Stuyvesant Rd proposal. Other interested neighbors should reach out to Town staff for more information.

Andrew Grossman returned to the conversation, concerned about transparency surrounding this proposal. Chairman John Limbeck stated that individual meetings have been discussed at required public meetings, Planning Board meetings, and that the Town has been keeping residents as involved as possible. Chairman Limbeck stated that all information is shared with the public.

Colin McCready, of 85 Stuyvesant Rd, expressed his gratitude with Town staff and the Planning Board. He stated that all residents who expressed interest to April Zurowski, Planning Board Secretary, have been contacted by Mr. McCready.

Board Member Sarah Gibson informed the public that the Planning Board has received copies of all resident comments submitted to the Town.

Rajalakshmi Govindaraj, of 19 Lawton Dr, asked the Board to explain their process to the public on how comments are taken into consideration. Chairman Limbeck stated that all comments are given consideration as for or against the application. The Board remains in contact with staff and consultants to answer questions and concerns. He reminded the public of the Federal Telecommunications Law of 1996, which states the Town must approve cellular facilities, so long as they meet Federal Communications Commission standards.

Robert Koegel, Town Attorney, stated that all deliberations are done publicly, though that doesn't mean the Board is not allowed to talk without quorum. The applicant, in this case Verizon Wireless, has the right to ensure they have proposed the most reasonable application, sometimes achieved by speaking with residents. Mr. Koegel encouraged the public to continue to attend and comment at Planning Board meetings.

Nancy Consol, of 82 Stuyvesant Rd, stated that if the proposed utility pole is not placed in a neutral area, then the pole will be in front of a residential property. Chairman Limbeck advised the public to hold off on comments regarding Stuyvesant Rd before the Radio Frequency Engineers can discuss.

Chairman John Limbeck asked for any further questions. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing for these proposals will remain open at this time.

Mr. Burgdorf stated that Verizon is indifferent when considering location and stealth type, so long as a solution to coverage issues can be resolved.

Mr. DeRue stated the Town of Pittsford has been dealing with cellular facilities for over 30 years. In every cellular application, the Town attempts to minimize community impact and will continue to do so in the future.

**OTHER DISCUSSION:**

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck informed the Board that the Town Supervisor has received four resumes to fill the open Planning Board Member position. Interviews will take place soon.

Chairman Limbeck asked Mr. Koegel to describe the process of choosing a Deputy Chairman. Mr. Koegel stated that the Planning Board will select the Deputy Chairman.

Chairman Limbeck encouraged the Board to complete required sexual harassment training.

The minutes of January 24, 2022 were approved following a motion by Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck, seconded by Planning Board Member John Halldow. Following a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved, none opposed.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck motioned to close the meeting at 7:47PM, seconded by Planning Board Member Paula Liebschutz, and was approved by a unanimous voice vote, no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

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April Zurowski  
Planning Board Secretary

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