

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
PLANNING BOARD
July 11, 2022**

Minutes of the Town of Pittsford Planning Board meeting held on July 11, 2022 at 6:30PM local time. The meeting took place in the Lower Level Meeting Room of Pittsford Town Hall, 11 S. Main Street.

PRESENT: Paul Alguire, John Halldow, Paula Liebschutz, Sarah Gibson, John Limbeck

ABSENT: Kevin Morabito, Dave Jefferson

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

ATTENDANCE: There were 29 members of the public present.

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

CONTINUED HEARING:

Verizon Wireless, 50 W Bloomfield Rd
Preliminary/Final Site Plan and Special Use Permit

Bob Burgdorf, of Nixon Peabody LLP and on behalf of Verizon Wireless, reintroduced the application. He stated that Verizon has acquired the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd for consideration of two different sites. He reported that the antenna centerline is under 100 feet and is lower than the engineers originally anticipated. He stated that the Board has received photo-simulations for both the "North" and "South" sites on the vacant lot. Mr. Burgdorf requested opinions on the submitted materials.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck asked Board members to address any questions or comments at this time. Mr. DeRue asked the Board to please take a few minutes to review the materials.

Board Member Sarah Gibson stated her preference for the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd because the Church at 50 W Bloomfield Rd is not willing to relocate the placement on their property. Board Member Gibson stated that she is in favor of better cellular service but must decide the best site for the Town.

Planning Board Member John Halldow stated his preference for the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd site over the Church site. He stated his preference for the stealth tree instead of a monopole.

Planning Board Member Paula Liebschutz stated her preference for the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield site over the Church site. She asked the applicant to schedule a site walk. Chairman Limbeck agreed.

Board Member Gibson asked if the requested tower height was different between the North and South sites. Mike Crosby, Radio Frequency Engineer for Verizon Wireless, stated that although there is a slight difference in ground elevation, other factors led engineers to request both sites at a 96-foot centerline. Mr. DeRue stated that the extra 5 feet of tree branches may require a variance.

Bill Johnson, Radio Frequency Engineer on behalf of the Town, stated that if the Board has a preference for either the North or South site, engineers will determine the details. A drone has been flown at varying heights to analyze obstructions. Mr. Crosby stated Verizon's higher frequency band is more susceptible to obstructions.

Planning Board John Limbeck stated that this application is a public hearing and asked for public comment.

Caroline Merenda, of 53 Greenwood Park, approached the podium. She thanked her neighbors for attending. She stated to the Board that cellular service is an urgent need in the neighborhood. She thanked the property owner of the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd for offering to host the tower. She asked the Board to consider the urgency of this application.

Chairman Limbeck stated that the Church at 50 W Bloomfield Rd negotiated for over a year and a half with no contact to the Town. He stated that he understands the urgency, but this application will affect the whole town. He stated that the Board has an obligation to look at other factors besides lack of service. Chairman Limbeck stated that the Board must determine the minimum height needed and aesthetics of the stealth tree.

Tom Doud, of 72 Barker Rd, that he read the online meeting minutes regarding this application. He stated his support for not having the facility at the Church.

Tony Leone, of 66 Greenwood Park, asked the Board if all three possible sites will provide the same level of coverage. He asked if one location will require a compromise in terms of coverage. He stated that he understands there is a process, but that he would like to express the urgency of this application.

Chairman Limbeck stated that the Board cannot reiterate enough that it recognizes the urgency of cellular service in the area. He stated that the details will need to be worked out prior to approval.

Mr. Crosby stated that all three sites will provide the same coverage but will have different specifications depending on which location is approved. The application is attempting to minimize the impact of the site on the community. He stated that the facility would require a slightly taller height than applied for at the Church. Although the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd would better serve the South and West. Mr. Crosby stated that previously approved micro sites will work together with this macro site.

Mr. DeRue stated that the facility will be visible from Greenwood Park if approved for the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd. He also stated that the already approved micro cell site on Mendon Center Rd should improve Greenwood Park's cellular service.

Chairman Limbeck stated that the public hearing will remain open at this time. He stated that further pursuit of the vacant lot behind 77 W Bloomfield Rd is warranted. The Board would like to review.

Mr. Burgdorf asked the Board to specify a preference in location, North or South, for the vacant lot. He also asked the Board to specify a preference between a stealth tree or monopole. The Board stated their preferences for a stealth tree, but stated that further information is needed to specify a North/South site preference.

Mr. DeRue stated that the Board needs to verify the height with propagations for each site. The Board's job is to approve the minimum height needed. He stated that this cellular facility will likely be permanent. Mr. DeRue stated that after the Town can determine minimum height and is sure a variance is needed, then the application will go through a Preliminary approval, passed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and will then return to the Planning Board for Final approval.

Robert Koegel stated that the Town is concerned about the requested height. The Town and Board would prefer the tower to be under 100 feet in total height. He stated that 10 feet will make a huge difference in the appearance of the tower. He stated that the Town and Board will need height information before a site walk. He stated that no propagations for the vacant lot have been received.

Mr. Crosby stated that Verizon will need a preference on North or South location prior to height analysis.

Planning Board Member Alguire asked Mr. Crosby if he preferred one site or the other based on technical requirements. Mr. Crosby stated that he prefers the North site due to less obstructions.

Mr. Burgdorf stated that the applicant would like to avoid a variance if possible. Mr. DeRue stated that the Town will be looking for propagations before stating a site preference. Mr. Crosby stated that the applicant will need a site preference prior to submitting propagations. Board Member Liebschutz stated that she would like to see propagations at both sites.

Mr. Burgdorf asked if the Board would like to schedule a site visit. Board Member Gibson stated that she has visited the vacant lot and does not request a site visit. Board Members Liebschutz and Halldow would appreciate a site walk with balloons.

Tom Doud asked if all three sites are equivalent, will the Board select the least obtrusive site? Chairman Limbeck confirmed. Mr. Doud stated that the two sites appear quite different in elevation.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

The minutes of June 27, 2022 were held over for approval at the next meeting.

Planning Board Chairman John Limbeck motioned to close the meeting at 7:34PM, seconded by Planning Board Member John Halldow, 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