

**Conway Planning Board**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2022**  
**via Zoom**

**Meeting convened** at 7:01 p.m.

**Members present:** Chair Beth Girshman, Joe Strzegowski (associate member), Jennifer Mullins, Susan Fentin, William Moebius and George Forcier.

**Administrative:** Minutes of May 19 meeting accepted; Fentin moves, Moebius seconds; Forcier, Mullins, Girshman vote yes; (Strzegowski abstains). Minutes of May 19 Vertex hearing continuation accepted; Forcier moves, Moebius seconds; unanimous.

The chair suggests the board go to hybrid Zoom meetings if the current Covid exemption allowing fully online public meetings expires this summer. The board concurred. The board has meetings planned for July 7 and Aug. 8.

**Vertex:** Chair notes we have received a bill from cell tower consultant Fred Goldstein of Interisle Consulting Group of Hopkinton, following his participation in Vertex public hearing, which completed his contacted work. The board will deliberate on the Vertex cell tower application at its next meeting, June 16. Fentin can't attend on June 16, but offered to help draft the order of conditions.

**Nexamp:** Nothing further on the solar farm requires Planning Board action, as all the board's special permit order of conditions are being met. However, the Conservation Commission continues to work with Nexamp solar farm developer on access road and erosion issues, and Eversource and Nexamp continue seeking cause and fix for harmonics problem in the neighborhood.

**Floodplain Bylaw Revision:** Girshman notes that language in the amendment being proposed to Annual Town Meeting regarding subdivisions and floodplains has been revised with Town Attorney Donna MacNicol's help. MacNicol will be at town meeting to help with introducing last minute changes needed to be introduced on Town Meeting floor.

Fentin asks what is the downside for people of these floodplain bylaw revisions. She answered her own question, in essence reiterating what a state floodplain administrator said at the recent public hearing, i.e., most of the changes to the bylaw are administrative in nature, not so much substantive. It was noted again, that without these changes, property owners in the floodplain will not qualify for federally subsidized flood insurance.

**Shade Tree Bylaw:** After discussions involving recent Highway Department removal and trimming of trees along Roaring Brook Road, it was concluded that the board need not explore any further adoption of a local scenic road bylaw. The state's shade tree law

— which requires the town hold hearings before felling or trimming trees in road rights-of-way— should provide adequate protection of trees along local roads, the board felt. Girshman said she had heard that the town administrator, highway superintendent and tree warden were developing a written procedure/policy for handling shade tree hearings and work.

**Updating telecom bylaw:** Girshman says the current 20-year-old cell tower bylaw is showing its age and ought to be updated. An example is the requirement that wireless carriers apply for tower permits, when in today's environment, independent developers build towers and rent space to carriers. Girshman suggested the board ask resident Chris Waldo, a professional in the telecom industry, and any others in town with similar backgrounds, to help with this.

Prompted by a question by Fentin about model bylaws, Girshman will check to see if there are templates that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments could provide as a part of the process.

**North Poland Road bridge:** The chair noted the board's comments have been solicited by MassHighway consultants about a one-lane bridge replacement on North Poland Road (with a two-lane span). Discussion led the board to conclude it probably has no jurisdiction in this matter, and the chair will check with the Selectboard to see if other more relevant town officials have received the same notice.

**Meeting adjourns at 7:59.** Fentin moves; Moebius seconds; unanimous.