

Planning Board Minutes
March 28, 2023
Town Hall, General Purpose Room
Public Hearing: Proposed Changes to Wireless Communications Bylaw

Present for the Board: Beth Girshman, Chair; Members Susan Fentin, George Forcier, Bill Moebius, Jenn Mullins; Associate Member Joe Stzregowski

Others Present: Morgan Hoyle, FCAT; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Planning Board

Beth convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Here to talk about why we undertook the revision of Article 8: Proposed cell towers: existing bylaw was last updated in 2005; lacks addressing of current conditions and could better address these.

The proposed text changes will be available on the town website. These will be taken up at town meeting on June 3rd.

The italicized sections on the handout are what the Board is considering as new: strikeouts are those being deleted.

It was noted that 8.3 is new and should be italicized. It will be corrected in the warrant.

Added several definitions to clarify:

8.2 - facility requirements - deleted 'be responsible for the costs' - impractical and unnecessary and is proposed to be changed.

We added to 8.2.2 'protect aesthetic concerns by addressing color camouflage and screening' to address aesthetic concerns.

Item 5: proposed addition that recognizes existing structures. We have a wireless communications tower mounted on Orchard's water tower. We wanted to address that reality. Mounted to existing structure.

Item 6: addresses anything that might fall outside the property line

Item 7: Open space - protecting endangered species. Extra sense of protection to residents and abutters.

Item 9: Historic areas. In the village center, and we want to protect it.

Section 11 covers noise except for temporary emergencies.

k: FCC guidelines - Recognizes that the FCC is the agency that sets the standards for radio frequency radiation and we thought it important to have this in the bylaw.

l, m, n, o - are all new:

l: addresses access roads (and m too) to the tower in regard to emergency access and erosion.

m: - new to the bylaw - small cell wireless facilities - takes the form of small antennae placed on existing infrastructure and poles along public rights of way. Typically range 200-1000 feet and operate at a lower power. Intended for 4-5 G equipment.

Beth asked for comments from the public, and none were made.

Beth will make corrections of any inaccuracies and will have the proposed revisions to the Town Administration tomorrow to put in to the warrant.

Vote: On a motion from Susan to approve the article as amended and presented, George seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Beth thanked George for all his work on this bylaw revision.

At 8:25 on a motion from Susan to close the hearing, George seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.