

**Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2014**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)  
Sarah Holbrook (SH)  
Ken Miller (KM)  
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)  
Alan Rice (AR)

Absent: Brittany Martin, Scribe

Guests: Christopher Gray (CG)  
Jody Hall (JH)  
Tom Henry (TH)  
Arnold Jones (AJ)

The meeting is called to order at 7:34pm.

1. Board reviews mail. Included is a letter from EBI Consulting, requesting comment “Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act...”, relating to a proposal for a telecommunications facility installation at 2003 Conway Road, in Ashfield. EBI Consulting represents AT&T Mobility LLC, the company looking to install the facility. Copies of the letter and attached maps/drawing details are distributed to the Board, as well as to AJ (per his request). Board discusses unfamiliarity with, and investigation of, Section 106 cited in the letter. AR to provide copy of letter/attachments to the Historical Commission, for its input.
2. MF notes that, with Brittany Martin’s absence this evening, the minutes for the Senior Housing public hearing are not yet distributed. The Board will be looking to review these minutes at its next meeting (scheduled for 4-16-14).
3. MF notes that the Sewer Commission – per Chair Todd Olanyk – has accepted a request for Planning Board members to attend one of its meetings, to discuss the potential impact of a Senior Housing district on sewer capacity in Town. The Sewer Commission is to be held on April 8, 2014. MF will post the date as a Planning Board meeting, in case there is a quorum of Planning Board members in attendance.
4. Board reviews proposal for wireless antenna installation on Town Hall steeple.
  - a. MF notes that, to his knowledge as of this date, the Select Board has not taken any action on this proposal.
  - b. MF has not received any comment from the Building Commissioner. He notes that it is still not clear whether a special permit would be required to install the wireless antennas on the steeple.
  - c. The Board discusses information in an email from CG to MF, dated 3-24-14, primarily concerning whether a special permit would be required to add antennas to the Town Hall steeple and, secondarily, about repeater installations on existing structures and regulations concerning communications towers. Attached to the email are several references to state and FCC documents/regulations supporting CG’s argument that a special permit would not be required for his proposal to install wireless antennas on the steeple. LPW states that more

- understanding/scrutiny of the language in these documents is needed. AR comments that CG's argument is only one of several possible interpretations of the language.
- d. As there has been no action or comment from the Select Board and Building Commissioner, MF suggests tabling discussion.
5. Board discusses proposed revisions – as put forth by MF – to Section 6F, Telecommunications Facilities, of the Ashfield Zoning Bylaws (AZB), as he has noted that the current language of this section focuses on towers, but not necessarily on wireless antennas. Discussion touches on the following.
- a. Exceptions for structures meeting requirements of Section IV of the AZB. AR questions whether setback of 25 feet should be greater for towers, as a concern for the potential toppling of a tower onto a neighboring property.
  - b. Collocation of antennas on existing structures, as related to language under Section I.C of the Nationwide Collocation Agreement. It is noted here that, currently, the Planning Board has no jurisdiction over historic structures.
  - c. Additional standards for telecommunications facilities potentially put in place at the state and/or federal level that may compel the Planning Board or the Building Commissioner to act accordingly.
  - d. A question as to whether language in Section I.C of the Nationwide Collocation Agreement be included in these revisions.
  - e. MF to rewrite and bring to next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourns at 9:03pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Rice, Clerk