

Planning Board Minutes
Ashfield Town Hall
September 2, 2015

Present: Ken Miller (KM)
Jim Cutler (JC)
Michael Fitzgerald (MF), Chair
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)
Alan Rice (AR)
Meghan Bowen (MB), scribe

Absent:

Guests: Ellen Freyman (EF), attorney representing Verizon

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM.

1. Board reviewed minutes from August 26, 2015. There was discussion about point number 13, regarding parking on Main Street. KM moved to accept amended minutes, JC seconded. All in favor, 5-0, motion carried.
2. Regarding the proposed tower on Liliput Road, KM asked whether service area overlap coverage would apply if none of the towers in question (including South Ashfield and Spruce Corner) has been built yet. MF said it would be difficult to determine that until one of the towers is completed, because otherwise the board cannot know the actual area of coverage.
3. Discussion of Liliput Road proposed tower with Ellen Freyman. EF inquired about the requirement in the Planning Board bylaws stating that an applicant will place a weather balloon at the proposed tower location for two weeks. The board confirmed that this requirement had been met by the previous applicant. EF said that the proposed height of the tower is 80 feet. EF requested projected coverage maps for other approved towers. EF provided a map of the proposed site, and the board discussed the location. MF said it was close to the town's historic district and town park. KM said it was also close to the scenic byway 112/116. JC asked about the terrain and how construction of the tower would affect erosion, water runoff, and other environmental issues. MF said that Ashfield requires a NEPA study before application. EF said that Verizon is required to do a NEPA study by federal law, but does not typically do one before applying.
4. Board discussed Liliput Road further after EF left. JC asked who would own the tower when it is done, since Verizon contracted SBA to develop it. Board reviewed projected coverage maps from Spruce Corner applicants to estimate what areas the Liliput Road tower would likely cover.

5. Board reviewed letter to AECOM as drafted by JC (see minutes from 8/26/15). AR moved to approve letter with amended language, LPW seconded. All in favor, 5-0, motion carried. JC will send it before the next meeting, and will inform the Select Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Board of Health.
6. JC said that FRCOG wants permission from the Planning Board to provide public record information to Kinder Morgan. Since the town voted to oppose the pipeline, LPW asked whether providing any information would be contrary to that vote. MF said that the Planning Board has no jurisdiction to provide this authorization since it is already in the public domain. JC moved to table the discussion, AR seconded. All in favor, 5-0, motion carried.
7. AR reported that FRGOC is offering the town \$5000 through DLTA (District Local Technical Assistance Program) to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan.
8. Board discussed agenda for the next meeting.
9. KM moved to adjourn meeting, JC seconded. All in favor, 5-0, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Bowen