

**Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2011**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)  
Sarah Holbrook (SH)  
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)  
Alan Rice (AR)  
Walter Cudnohufsky, Associate Member (WC)

Others Present: Brian Clark, Diane Broncaccio, David Newell, Betty Stewart, David Dwyer and other representatives from Great Auk Wireless

The meeting is called to order at 7:35pm.

1. AR moves to accept the September 21, 2011 meeting minutes with revisions. LPW seconds it and all vote in favor.
2. Board reviews Seth Miller and Tina Stevenson's ANR for Rt. 112 property. No fee or Form A is submitted. A telephone number could not be located for the applicants, so a call is made and a message is left for the surveyor.
3. Informational meeting with Great Auk Wireless (GAW). The following items are discussed:
  - a. David Dwyer (DD) speaking for GAW states that they are seeking clarification of the permitting process and what is required of GAW;
  - b. WC asks where the intermediary point is. It is explained that the main point of broadcast is from Mt. Tom with the intermediate point is in Deerfield;
  - c. GAW is proposing to erect one 80' high ROHN lattice tower on Peter Hill (center pin into ledge with guy wires also pinned on ledge). At the top of the structure a flat dish panel will receive signal from site in Deerfield. Peter Hill has been selected by GAW as the site because of its elevation and its ability to receive the feed from Deerfield. The site has a good clearing and the topography drops off.
  - d. So far, 200 -300 people have expressed interest in receiving service, and GAW believes it will be able to provide wireless to 70%-80% of those who signed-up;
  - e. It is discussed that voters may not see Peter Hill as the best location because it is visible from the historic district. MF asks if another location has been considered. DD responds that moving the location of the tower is possible but service may be compromised. Because Peter Hill has been defined as the best location to receive signal from Deerfield, as well as provide access to the majority of interested people in Ashfield, another location may require additional towers. GAW would like to be as minimally invasive as possible. MF points out that Peter Hill may not be the best location in the future as new subscribers join. He also suggests that GAW create a plan for another hill;
  - f. DD points out that the proposed site for the tower is not the requisite distance away from the abutter. It is only 30 - 40 feet from Water District property. The Planning Board mentions that an easement would need to be granted by the Water District;
  - g. Various topics are discussed: fencing (probably not necessary – low voltage and on private property); tower color (per request of the town – usually painted to blend with the setting); underground power lines (plan to run overhead power lines); and balloon flying (GAW not opposed. GAW also proposes that they could place a temporary tower with orange flagging to illustrate what it will look like);

- h. No lighting is required and the tower doesn't fall into any regulatory restrictions with the FAA;
  - i. MF suggests to GAW to create a plan / proposal illustrating what the project would look like if the entire town subscribes;
  - j. Betty Stewart, speaking for the Water District, expresses interest in placing a tower on the Water District property where the old fire tower once existed. This would help defray their costs. Plus, a cement slab already exists. She states that she will continue this conversation with the Commissioners and their attorney, as the property is currently in conservation restriction. They would like to remove one acre from the conservation restriction;
  - k. DD asks if a registered landscape architect, per special permit stipulations, will be needed, as they will not be altering the site. MF states that this may not be necessary, however a certified professional will need to stamp the plans;
  - l. MF asks if the tower could accommodate the Emergency Services' OMNI box. GAW states that they believe it may be possible;
  - m. MF explains the permitting process (fee, timetable...);
  - n. A question is asked if a wind turbine would interfere with reception. Unless it is placed right in front of the tower, it probably would not interfere;
4. Board briefly discusses the outcome of the special town meeting pertaining to the Photovoltaic section of the bylaw. It is noted that type of fencing was not included in the section.
5. Board discusses the Shelburne wind farm proposal and hearing for November 17, 2011.

Meeting adjourns at 9:15 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Sussbauer