

**Becket Planning Board  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
December 11th, 2013**

Planning Board Members Present: Robert Ronzio ( Chairperson), Ann Krawet, Howard Lerner (Alternate), Martin Schlanger (Clerk), Beth VanNess ( Asst. Clerk).

Planning Board Members Absent: Gale LaBelle.

Members of the public present: Robert Gross, Alvin Blake.

Meeting opens at: 7: 05 pm

Chairperson , Robert Ronzio, opens the meeting and announces that agendas are on the table for anyone who wants them. He advises that the meeting is being held in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A and the By-laws of the Town of Becket. A decision to issue a special permit requires a minimum of four positive votes from a five member board. The board has 90 days to make a decision after the close of a public hearing and 14 days to file paperwork with the Town Clerk once a decision is made. Any Appeals of decisions can be made only to the court and must be made pursuant to Section 17, MGL 40A as amended, and must be filed within 20 days after the date of filing of the decision with the Town Clerk. Mr. Ronzio asks if there is anyone who is going to make a video or an audio recording of the meeting; no recordings are announced. Lastly Mr. Ronzio informs everyone present that no person shall address this meeting without the permission of the chair and that all people, at the request of the chair shall be silent. Mr. Ronzio advises all present that it is the intention of this board to proceed with the posted agenda in the order in which they are listed, and again reminds everyone that agendas are on the table for anyone who wants one.

Mr. Ronzio dispenses with the reading of the Open Meeting Law, as requested.

Approval of November 13th, 2013 Meeting Minutes- Ms. VanNess makes a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as presented, Ms. Krawet seconds motion; Mr. Schlanger abstains. November meeting minutes are approved as presented.

Public Hearing- Pittsfield Cellular d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Wade Inn/ Cross Road location, Map 413 Lot 114.

Attorney Ellen Freyman approaches Planning Board members present and introduces herself, explaining she is representing Verizon Wireless. Ms. Freyman explains that the tower is currently owned by Mariner Tower and that it is 150 ft. tall. Ms. Freyman also explains that Verizon will be on the second rung down which will put them at approximately 137 ft. Ms. Freyman explains that they will be adding 12 antenna panels and 6 remote heads as well as a 12' x 30' equipment shed within the existing fenced in compound. Ms. Freyman also introduces Jay LaTorre, Engineer, who takes a moment to speak to the Planning Board and advise them that there are many areas in Becket that are considered , by Verizon, to be unreliable and do not always receive full service. Jay presents maps for board members to review, showing the

improvement to the Town's service with the new antennas being installed. Ms. Freyman briefly reviews the proposed equipment shed that will be erected, advising that it will be right next to AT&T's existing shed.

Mr. Lerner asks how much land is included, making sure that there is enough room for the shed.

Mr. Ronzio confirms that there is more than enough land.

Mr. Ronzio asks if there are any further questions, hearing none, he closes this portion of the hearing and polls the board for a vote.

Hearing closes at 7:23 pm.

A motion is made to approve the application from Pittsfield Cellular Telephone Company dba Verizon Wireless to install 12 antenna panels and six remote heads on the existing telecommunications tower and also erecting a 12' x 30' equipment shed within the fenced in compound. This property is located at 60 Cross Road/Wade Inn Road, Assessors' Map 413 Lot 114.

Robert Ronzio- I vote to approve this application because it will greatly improve cell service to Becket Residents as well as visitors to the Town.

Martin Schlanger- I vote to approve this application because there are no negatives to the request. It is an improvement to the ability for enhanced reception in the Town is a plus factor, therefore I approve.

Ann Krawet- I vote to approve this application because service along Route 8 and 20 will be improved and no substantial construction that will affect abutting parcels or public ways anticipated. All town requirements /codes will be observed by Verizon.

Beth VanNess- I vote to approve this application because it will help provide better service for the area, without disturbing anything and is within a fenced area that is already existing.

Howard Lerner- I vote to approve this application because it is in compliance of the required wireless by-laws.

Gale LaBelle- Absent

Public Participation- None

Old Business- Large Wind Turbine Subcommittee- Ms. Krawet confirms that board members have a copy of the bylaw in hand for review. Ms. Krawet explains that there are two things that need to be considered; the acceptance and approval of the bylaw , and also to decide to put a moratorium in place. At this time, Ms. Krawet also advises that there is a wind forum being held at BCC on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lerner asks if the Bylaw will have to go to Town meeting and get a 2/3 majority approval?

Mr. Ronzio and Ms. Krawet confirm.

Board members discuss the possibility of putting a moratorium in place. Mr. Ronzio advises that you can not continually have a moratorium in place simply because there is something that you do not like. He further explains some of the pros and cons of having a moratorium. Mr. Ronzio

tells Board members present that they need to decide either on the bylaw changes or a moratorium, not both. Board members continue reviewing the bylaw language, making minor changes. Board members agree to change the decibel level to 5 decibels. Board members realize that there are two definitions that need to be drafted and included as part of the bylaw. Board members list under the definition of the SPGA to be the Planning Board.

Board members draft the definition of **property** to be : An area of land in one ownership with definite boundaries, registered or recorded in the Berkshire Middle registry of deeds, used or available for use as the site of one or more buildings.

Mr. Lerner makes a motion to approve the two changes as discussed and agreed upon ( decibel change and SPGA definition), Ms. VanNess seconds motion; Unanimous Approval.

Mr. Lerner makes a motion not to consider a moratorium at this time , as they have approved the modifications of the Large Wind Turbine Bylaw and also the newly drafted definition of property, Mr. Schlanger seconds motion. Ms. Krawet takes a moment before the motion is voted upon to speak on the reasons why she would still like to see a moratorium put in place. Ms. Krawet reads an article written by Dr. Nausbaum aloud for the planning board members to consider. Mr. Ronzio polls members on the motion on the floor made by Mr. Lerner and seconded by Mr. Schlanger.

Vote ( Against the moratorium) – Mr. Lerner, Mr. Schlanger, Mr. Ronzio, Ms. VanNess.

Vote ( For the moratorium)- Ms. Krawet

A moratorium will not be put in place.

#### New Business-

Vacancy to be filled on the Community Preservation Committee/ Planning Board to elect a member- Board members briefly discuss the spot that was recently vacated by Ms. Krawet. Ms. Krawet briefly explains what the committee is about and what some of their duties are. Ms. Krawet makes a motion to elect Gale LaBelle to the Community Preservation Committee, she further motions in the case that Ms. LaBelle declines the nomination, then she would then nominate Mr. Robert Ronzio to the committee, Mr. Lerner seconds motion, Ms. VanNess abstains, Mr. Ronzio abstains, the motion does not carry.

Ms. Krawet makes a motion to elect Bob Ronzio to fill the vacant spot on the Community Preservation Committee, Mr. Lerner seconds motion, Unanimous Approval.

#### Any other business to come before the board-

Dark Sky Movement- informational handouts are given to Planning Board members to read and review. Board members briefly discuss, agreeing that light pollution should be considered under general bylaws rather than zoning bylaws.

Small Wind Bylaw- Chairperson, Robert Ronzio asks that this topic be added to the January agenda for further discussion.

Correspondence- Read and Reviewed.

Budget-Read and Reviewed.

Ms. VanNess makes a motion to adjourn, Mr. Lerner motion; Meeting is adjourned at 10:30.

Schedule next meeting for Wednesday January 8th, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hunt  
Administrative Assistant

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Ronzio

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Howard Lerner

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth VanNess

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Krawet

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Schlanger