



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH PLANNING BOARD

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Approved 10-11-11

## Planning Board Meeting Minutes September 20, 2011

**Members Present:** Rick Leif, George Pember, Michelle Gillespie, Leslie Harrison, Theresa Capobianco

**Others Present:** Kathy Joubert, Town Planner; Peter Fales, Centerline Communications LLC

Chairman Leif opened the meeting at 7 pm.

### Public Hearing to Consider Rooftop Installation of WCF Antennas at 456 Main Street

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC c/o AT&amp;T Mobility</b>
<b>Agent:</b>	<b>Centerline Communications LLC</b>
<b>Date Filed:</b>	<b>August 11, 2011</b>
<b>Decision Due:</b>	<b>November 8, 2011</b>

Peter Fales, Centerline Communications LLC, presented the project, stating the applicant is proposing the installation of three additional wireless communication antennae on the rooftop of 456 Main Street. The three antennae will be fully enclosed inside an 8-foot concealment canister identical in type to the existing concealment canister. The existing canister is 6.4 feet off the roof, but will be extended to 8 feet to match the new canister. All cabinets inside the building will be using 6 radio heads (3 sets of 2 radio heads) with small surge arrestors mounted on the roof and set back. This additional equipment will allow the applicant to offer its customers more speed for data and will address capacity and data transmission issues. There will be no tower necessary. Mr. Fales presented to the board sets of 18 color photos of the site, including existing and proposed conditions of the building's rooftop installations.

Mr. Leif stated the board would like to see as little visual impact as possible.

Ms. Capobianco asked if it was necessary to have the equipment close to the front of the building.

Mr. Fales responded it is necessary because the antennae have to pick up signals from vehicles on the road and if they were back further, they wouldn't work.

Mr. Pember asked if they were proposing anything that would be higher than the 8-foot canister.

Mr. Fales said they are not. He noted the canisters are capped so nothing inside them will come out.

Mr. Leif stated he drove by the site and the existing canister is basically invisible except when driving westbound on Route 20. He stated putting a 2-foot cap on the existing canister is not going to make a difference.

Regarding the location of the surge arrestors, Mr. Fales said AT&T could agree to go 10 feet back from the edge of the roof. Mr. Fales explained the radio head and surge arrestor in the photo simulation would be moved back towards the corner.

Mr. Pember stated the intent of the bylaw is to try to make sure these facilities are shared. He asked if this facility was strictly for AT&T. He stated the board was insistent there would be co-location available on the tower that will be located at the Police Station.

Ms. Joubert stated rooftops are significantly different from towers. A rooftop is a company trying to fill in gap coverage with just a single array or a single antenna. She noted this rooftop installation was approved in 2000, and there are two others, one on 4 West Main Street and one in the church steeple at 40 Church Street.

Mr. Leif asked if more equipment can go inside the 8-foot canister than what is being proposed.

Mr. Fales said no more will go inside. Three is the number they use with these canisters.

Mr. Leif confirmed this particular installation will not support more technology.

Mr. Fales stated no one can co-locate on an 8-foot antenna. If another company wanted to go on the rooftop, they would have to talk with Extra Space Storage.

The board reviewed the draft decision Ms. Joubert had distributed and made some modifications to it.

Ms. Gillespie moved to close the hearing, Ms. Harrison seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Pember moved to approve the Site Plan as submitted with the modifications discussed at the meeting, Ms. Capobianco seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor of approving the site plan.

Ms. Joubert made the changes to the decision and the board signed the Site Plan Approval for 456 Main Street.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The board approved the minutes of July 12, 2011 and August 30, 2011 as submitted.

## **ZBA Meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Ms. Joubert reported the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on September 21<sup>st</sup> to vote on their decision for the appeal of a cease and desist order issued to SA Farms LLC on July 15<sup>th</sup> by the building inspector. The Applicant appealed the cease and desist order, the ZBA heard the appeal at their meeting in August and the hearing was closed at that time. The board will vote on the application at their meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Cell Tower Consultant**

Ms. Joubert stated she will verify with David Maxson, WCF consultant, that he will be speaking to the board at their next meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm. That discussion will be the only item on the agenda. Mr. Leif stated that, after meeting with Mr. Maxson, the board can choose to say the WCF bylaw is fine or to present reasons to change it.

## **Solar Farm & Wind Energy**

Mr. Pember brought up the concept of solar farms and asked the board members their opinions on doing something like that in Northborough. A brief discussion was held regarding solar farms and wind energy. Ms. Joubert stated there has been some talk about the formation of an energy committee to look at renewable sources. She stated the town does not have an alternative energy bylaw.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Grampietro  
Board Secretary