

TOWN OF BEDFORD
June 21, 2018
BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Bill Duschatko (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Kathleen Bemiss, Jason Lacroix, and Bill Greiner. Also present: Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director.

Chairman Duschatko called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and asked that each member introduce themselves.

Chairman Duschatko asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to speak before the committee begins discussion of new business. Ms. Denise Ricciardi said she would like the Town Council to hold off on making any decisions regarding possible towers on the town-owned property off of Chubbuck Road until this committee has made their final recommendations. She said the original moratorium has expired. The group discussed the Town Council moratorium on new cell tower proposal on town land and determined that it expired in April 2018. The group agreed to recommend to the Council that the date be extended to April 2019. Mr. Greiner said the deadline could not be extended beyond the life of the current Council. Chairman Duschatko said he would ask the Council to extend the deadline. Ms. Bemiss asked if the Master Plan would look at the use of town-owned land and facilities. Ms. Hebert said that the Master Plan would look broadly at these issues.

New Business

- Chairman Duschatko said that the review of the Zoning Board of Adjustment application form for special exceptions would be postponed to the next meeting. Mr. Swinarski would like to walk the committee through the application and make suggestions. He would use the Tirrell Road application as an example. Chairman Duschatko said he felt there were some areas of duplication and confusion.
- The minutes of the May meetings were accepted.
- Chairman Duschatko explained that he received a letter from Peter Sullivan, a Bedford resident, requesting that the School Board and Riddle Brook School community be included in any discussion about the possible placement of a tower on the Chubbuck Road site. He read the letter in the record (see attached).
- Chairman Duschatko said that the committee is scheduled to meet on the third Thursday in July and August. Please contact him if you are not planning to attend so they can be sure to have a quorum.
- The Committee discussed cell coverage in Bedford. Chairman Duschatko and Ms. Bemiss drove around Bedford using the open signal app on their phones to gauge

which providers are covering Bedford. They drove the streets primarily in the northwest corner of Bedford and also checked the neighborhoods south of Route 101 to the Merrimack town line. He said US Cellular provided good to excellent coverage in most of the areas surveyed but Verizon's coverage was inconsistent.

- The group discussed whether or not all of the co-location opportunities were in use on all for the existing towers in Bedford. Ms. Bemiss volunteered to contact the owners to find out if there were any available spots for new antennas. Mr. Greiner said it would be important to also review the current lease agreements.
- Ms. Hebert suggested contacting IDK Communication for a proposal to map the existing service provider's coverage in Bedford. She said the firm worked on the third party review of the recent ZBA applications and also reviewed the proposed lease for the tower off of Chubbuck Road. Ms. Bemiss offered to reach out to IDK Communication.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director

Good Afternoon Bedford Telecommunications Committee Members, Mr. Duschatko, and Mr. Sawyer,

I understand that the June 21 Telecommunications Committee meeting agenda items include "Application for Siting of Cell Towers," and "Discussion on use of municipal land/structures." It is also my understanding that there is another current application to place a cell phone tower on the controversial Chubbuck Road site.

Last March the majority of Bedford residents voted in favor of zoning amendments limiting the placement of wireless telecommunication facilities (cell towers). Given the public opposition towards cell towers and the proximity of the Chubbuck Road site to the Riddle Brook School it would be prudent to include members of the School Board and the Riddle Brook School community (including faculty and staff, the Parent Teacher Group, and parents of children at the Riddle Brook School) in any discussion about the placement of a cell tower at the Chubbuck Road site. Riddle Brook school is a National Blue Ribbon Award-winning school and a nearby cell tower is likely to impact its students, faculty, staff, and reputation.

For your convenience and for their situational awareness I have included the following individuals in this email:

Kim Beekman and Sue Jennato, Bedford Parent Teacher Group Co-Presidents (bedfordnhptg@gmail.com)

Mrs. Molly McCarthy, Riddle Brook School Principal (mccarthym@sau25.net)

Lauren Martin, Riddle Brook School PTG liaison (lauren.martin777@gmail.com)

Kim Blaine, Riddle Brook School Faculty Liaison (blainek@sau25.net)

Paula Fay, Riddle Brook School Faculty Liaison (fayp@sau25.net)

Jay Nash, School Board Chair (nashj@sau25.net)

Cindy Chagnon, School Board Vice Chair (chagnonc@sau25.net)

I trust that you wish to act with complete transparency and that you welcome public input and discussion on the placement of a cell tower adjacent to Riddle Brook School.

Unfortunately, giving members of the Riddle Brook School community the opportunity to participate in this discussion may prove to be a challenge in the immediate future as we draw near to the end of the school year and the start of the Summer break. **I respectfully request that you solicit input from members of the Riddle Brook School community on this matter. I also request that you postpone any discussion about and delay any progress towards the construction of a cell tower at the Chubbuck Road site prior to the start of the next school year in order to afford members of the Riddle Brook School community the opportunity to participate in the dialogue.**

I will be out of state for the next week and will not be able to attend the June 21 Telecommunications Committee meeting. I am a Bedford resident and I have three children currently attending Riddle Brook School. I am opposed to the placement of a cell tower at the Chubbuck Road site because of the negative impacts on nearby residents (including myself), on the environment (including the adjacent Magazine Street

Prime Wetlands area), and on the Riddle Brook School students and community. Please consider this email in lieu of my attendance at the upcoming meeting.

Respectfully,
Peter J. Sullivan