

**Sturbridge Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
Center Office Building**

Present:

Dane LaBonte
Sue Waters
Jeff Adams
Charlie Blanchard
Wally Hersee

Absent:

Michael Chisholm
Christopher Bouchard
Jeneé Lacy, Administrative Assistant
Jean Bubon, Town Planner

Also Present:

Paula Foley, Verizon
Stan Usavich, Verizon



C. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and read the agenda.

Town Planner Update

C. Blanchard stated that the only item for a Town Planner Update is the next Planning Board meeting will be September 13th, 2022.

Old/New Business

W. Hersee brought up the new Housing Trust that is being formed. C. Blanchard discussed the Trust and stated that the Board of Selectmen will be appointing trustees and they will need one member from the Planning Board and since W. Hersee is on the Housing Partnership Committee, he would be a good choice if he was interested. C. Blanchard stated that he doesn't think a vote of the Planning Board would be necessary and asked if others agreed. The other Board members agreed.

The Board discussed the new Town Administrator since she started when J. Adams was away.

Public Hearing – Special Hearing – 179 Main Street – Verizon Wireless

C. Blanchard stated that he had discussed the proposed Verizon antennas with J. Bubon and decided to treat it as a regular special permit but the impact that they will have is relatively

small so J. Bubon is going to look into changing the bylaws so that the antenna installation could be done without a public hearing.

S. Waters read the public hearing notice that was posted in the Southbridge Evening News.

Paula Foley and Stan Usavich of Verizon came before the Board and presented their proposal to attach small cell equipment to an existing utility pole in the public right-of-way near 179 Main Street. They stated that the purpose of the equipment is to provide improved service capacity and coverage in the immediate area around the utility pole.

J. Adams asked what the radius of the enhanced area the antennas would create. P. Foley stated that it would be a very limited coverage area, only about a third of a mile to a half a mile around the antenna itself. J. Adams asked if this was the only antenna installation that they have planned in Sturbridge. P. Foley stated that it was, though their engineers have been looking at a number of other locations in the Town, but currently this location is the only one that has been identified as needing to be addressed immediately.

The Board discussed the possibility of changing the bylaw in regards to adding equipment to existing poles and the processing going forward.

Motion: To close the public hearing.

By: S. Waters

2nd: J. Adams

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve the Special Permit and Site Plan as submitted.

By: D. LaBonte

2nd: W. Hersee

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

C. Blanchard asked the applicants if there was anything that they would like to bring them up to date on in regards to Verizon. S. Usavich stated that there weren't really any updates but Verizon has been working on 5G and other broadband issues.

Approval of Minutes

August 9, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of August 9, 2022.

By: D. LaBonte

2nd: S. Waters

Vote: 3-0-2 (J. Adams and W. Hersee abstained)

C. Blanchard discussed the Affordable Housing Trust and stated that there will need to have a representative from the Planning Board. He stated that since W. Hersee is on the Affordable Housing Committee so he would be a good choice. The rest of the Board agreed.

C. Blanchard stated that the next meeting would be September 13th.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn meeting.

By: D. LaBonte

2nd: W. Hersee

Vote: All in Favor

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy