

Planning Board – Public Hearing
Longmeadow High School – Meeting Room A15
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Ken Taylor, Bruce Colton, Heather Laporte.

Others Present: Stephen Crane, Town Manager; Edward Pare, James Fitzgerald, Donald Haes.

The **Planning Board Public Hearing** regarding Wireless Edge LLC's Site and Design Review Application #20180404-1 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Donald Holland. The legal notice was originally published on both the Town Hall and the Longmeadow Reminder within 48 hours of said hearing. The hearing was commenced on June 6th of 2018 and it was continued on July 11, August 1st and with final continuation tonight. The public was reminded of the procedures of the hearing which begin with a presentation from Wireless Edge, followed by comments from residents in favor of the project and later comments from residents opposed to the project, with each individual being allowed five minutes and a single opportunity to speak.

Continuation – Site & Design Review Application #20180404-1 – Wireless Edge Towers LLC:

Edward Pare, attorney on behalf of Wireless Edge Towers LLC, along with James Fitzgerald, provided the following description:

1. The monopole will be located in a strip of land between the Longmeadow High School, Bliss Road and the Blinn Tennis Courts. The location is based on the Town of Longmeadow's previously issued RFP; no other location alternatives were given at the time.
2. Coverage maps shows increased 700-MHz coverage to the west as well as increased radial coverage for their 1900-MHz and 2100-MHz frequencies. The radius of coverage is smaller as the frequency increases.
3. The monopole, or cell tower, measurements are 141' in height and 4' in diameter. It will have a fenced compound surrounded by evergreens and a canopy will be installed to protect equipment at the base of the tower.
4. A small gravel access road off Bliss Road will be built. Current map shows the removal of a red oak tree, however this road layout can be modified if the Town wishes to maintain the tree. All surrounding trees are to remain.
5. Cell tower location complies with zoning regulations regarding distance to the Historic District (over 5,900 feet) and nearest residence (502 feet). In addition, the nearest permanent structure, Big Y, is located approximately 300 feet from the proposed tower location.
6. While Verizon's equipment is required to be at 94' above ground level to ensure the carrier can provide the intended coverage, the total height of 141' (including antenna) is required to accommodate existing and future carriers per the Town's bylaws. Current bylaws allow for up to 190' in height.
7. The top of the antenna offers space for potential future installation of public safety equipment.
8. The monopole is a unique design that, while wider than typical cell towers, its width allows the equipment to be concealed within the pole; each carrier leases a "hatch" at each level that rotates around and has an access panel.

9. The project is also seeking a relief from the ZBA regarding the predetermined fault line in the tower: engineers involved in the design of the structure have indicated that due to its unique design the structure, in the event of failure, would bend but not snap and that Wireless Edge LLC can provide all the necessary features to ensure public safety they way that the bylaw intends.

Donald Haes, a Radiation Safety Specialist hired by Wireless Edge LLC, presented an analysis of all theoretical calculations that were performed to determine the maximal radio-frequency (RF) fields that would be generated simultaneously by Verizon and four additional carriers working at, hypothetically, maximum streaming. Under this scenario, the radio-frequency contributions would fall well within compliance with the pertinent sections of the FCC's guidelines for RF exposure; this includes any and all potential contributions by future Town Public Safety equipment, which were assumed based on what municipalities currently use.

Comments from Board Members and Town Manager:

- Walter Gunn asked if there were any aviation requirements to which Edward Pare indicated that the FAA is not required to be notified of the construction of this monopole and, therefore, FAA requirements do not apply.
- Stephen Crane commented that the antenna design at the top of the monopole is an important component currently being considered as the regional dispatch center project is being mapped out. He also added that over time he has received numerous phone calls from town residents who wonder if cell phone service will improve.

Comments from residents in favor:

- None

Comments from residents opposed:

- None

Heather Laporte made a motion to close the Public Hearing and Bruce Colton seconded the motion. All members voting in favor 5-0, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano

Documents presented:

1. *Verizon Engineering Necessity Case, Longmeadow N2, MA – Presentation.*
2. *Radiation Safety Specialist's Analysis*
3. *Property Plan C-1 and Site Plan C-2, Compound Plan & Elevation Z-1*
4. *Visibility Analysis & Photo-Simulations*