

Town of Mendon

Selectboard

February 27, 2020

Members of Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Scott Bradley

Members of Planning Commission present: Teri Corsones, Gary Silher, Justin Lindholm, Fred Bagley, Phil Douglas

Town Officers and employees present: Sara Tully, Town Administrator

Visitors present: Dave Archambault, Virtual Site Simulations, Will Dodge Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, Janielle Smith, Centerline Communications, Chris Voda, Property Owner

The Selectboard Meeting was called to order as a continuation of the Selectboard Meeting 2/24/20 adjourning at 6:40 PM to reconvene at February 27, 2020 at 5:15 PM at the Town Office for the purpose of reviewing the View Shed Analysis for the AT&T tower, review visible tower locations and discuss a date and time for the balloon test.

W. Dodge, DRM, PLLC presented a coverage map for AT&T showing a lack of coverage along the Route 4 corridor in Mendon and stretching northward into Chittenden and Pittsford encompassing a significant area. S. Tully asked why the coverage map presented does not map the coverage map from AT&T's website that indicates there is full coverage throughout Mendon. W. Dodge responded that experts created the maps he presented. S. Tully questioned whether AT&T was being deceptive to present a full coverage map on their website. W. Dodge responded no with no other explanation than the maps he is presenting are created by specific experts in this field.

W. Dodge explained an overview of FirstNet and AT&T winning the federal contract to create a nationwide network available to first responders in the event of an emergency. The federal government has agreed to pay \$90 billion with AT&T contributing an additional \$90 Billion to create the network.

Mendon town officials summarized in a letter dated February 10th to W. Dodge, DRM and copied to the Department of Public Service, Centerline Communications, and the Rutland Regional Planning, that the Viewshed Analysis grossly misrepresented the impacted views of the tower and identified the location of the tower in a different location than the engineered plans for the project. W. Dodged apologized for the conflicting information explaining the location used for the viewshed mapping was then changed once the engineered plans were finalized.

J. Lindholm explained the pictures included in the viewshed mapping did not point to the correct location or even the correct mountain in some instances.

AT&T has agreed to conduct another balloon test to be scheduled at the end of March weather dependent on less than 10 mph winds with a preference of less than 6 mph winds. A public hearing will also be scheduled after the balloon test has been conducted. The warning for the balloon test and public hearing will be posted on the town's website www.mendonvt.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/townofmendonvt. The town of Mendon will be encouraging all interested parties to attend the public hearing.

The town of Mendon had submitted a list of addresses with expected impacted view of the proposed tower to AT&T. The list of addresses were reviewed in detail. D. Archambault and W. Dodge both explained sites within a 1 mile radius are preferred but they can extend out to 2 miles of the tower. They explained anything beyond 2 miles the view of the tower would be insignificant.

The town requested again that computer generated photos of what the tower will look like on the mountain be created along with the balloon test. J. Lindholm requested to see pictures of projects where AT&T installed towers in Vermont. First, a picture of what they presented the tower was going to look like on the ridgeline and what it eventually did look like for comparison.

The proposed tower is 140 feet. AT &T will be installing 4 arrays at the top of the tower. They are able to sell space on the tower to other vendors. F. Bagley requested to see what the tower will look like fully loaded with arrays.

Action items:

1. AT&T agreed to narrow down the list of addresses to take pictures from for the balloon test and submit to the town early next week.
2. Mendon will review the list and make comment if any addresses have been omitted that they feel strongly should be included.
3. AT&T will pursue requesting Landowner permission waivers to take pictures on private property if needed prior to the balloon test with approximately 2 weeks notice.
4. AT&T will schedule the balloon test with the town as soon as weather conditions can be forecasted.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. Motion carried.

Date Approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully - Clerk of the Board

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley