

**TOWN OF BARRE
PLANNING BOARD
JULY 11, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The board met at the Town Hall and the meeting was called to order at 6:48 pm by co-chair Mr. Keeler due to issues with YouTube streaming.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Keeler Jean Depatie
Kurt Dudley Stephen Harling
Kirk Mathes Anna Shuknecht (Alt.)

EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS

Wes Miller Jean Peglow

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS

Eric Watson (Alt.)

Others present: George Chianis from RTO Wireless, Margaret Swan

Mr. Keeler promoted Mrs. Shuknecht as a voting member for this meeting due to two board members being excused.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Mathes made a motion to approve the May 9th regular meeting minutes as presented with no corrections. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Shuknecht and carried. (6-0)

II. NEW BUSINESS

An application has been received for a Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit from RTO Wireless. Mr. Chianis stated that RTO was awarded the contract with the County to help provide internet service to those residents without internet service. RTO was originally the company who provided free WIFI in the town's parking lot during COVID. The company will be placing three panel antennas and two parabolic dishes on the catwalk of the water tank behind the fire hall in the hamlet. They will also have a radio station equipment cabinet at the base of the water tower which is about the size of a file cabinet. A lease agreement has been worked out with the town.

- A 100-amp electric service will be needed. The cost for electric is estimated to be \$75.00-\$100.00 and a deal has been arranged with the town for it.
- With installation, will also be installing conduit pipe of 105 feet for Mr. Brooks the highway superintendent
- WIFI will be supplied to the Barre Town Park from the building in the park

- The final placement of the antennas will be at Mr. Brooks discretion
- Should be priced lower than what is available now. However, it will be subscription deal
- There will be 14 other sites in Orleans County with one possibly on the cell tower located on Hemlock Ridge Road.
- Because of not having full access to the water tower, a call will be made to the highway department for access and within 24 hours access will be given
- There will not be signage or lights, etc.
- Ambient, an ancillary of RTO, will be the source of contact for a subscription and not RTO. Ambient/RTO will have a booth at the County fair with information.
- Contract with the town is a comparable/standard agreement with the exception of adding WIFI in the park
- Mrs. Dale-Hall should have a copy of the agreement
- All cell towers do not go to the County planning board and the County is behind this project

Resolution 10-2022

Introduced by: Steve Harling
 Seconded by: Kurt Dudley

WHEREAS the Town of Barre Planning Board has reviewed the application of RTO Wireless LLC on the property of 4709 Oak Orchard Road (95.3-1-45) and

RESOLVED, that the application did not have to go to County Planning Board

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Keeler – Aye
 Mr. DePatie – Aye
 Mr. Dudley – Aye
 Mr. Harling – Aye
 Mr. Mathes – Aye
 Mrs. Shuknecht – Aye

The resolution passed.

In regards to the Site Plan Review:

- Mr. Keeler would like to make sure that the agreement with the town is given to Mrs. Dale-Hall.
- A ladder will not be added as the antennas will non be on top of the water tower but attached to the railing on the catwalk and spread out
- Welding to the top of a water tank in the past has interfered with the water in the tank and is not done that way anymore
- Is there an option of colors for the antennas? The color will blend in with the tank and repainted if the color changes in the future

- Grain towers will be used in Knowlesville and Kent
- RTO also looked at Mark Keeler’s antenna on Pine Hill Road, however it was deemed not to be structurally strong
- RTO is looking at the possibility of using the cell tower on Hemlock Ridge Road

Resolution 11-2022

Introduced by: Jean DePatie
 Seconded by: Steve Harling

WHEREAS the Planning Board has reviewed the application of RTO Wireless LLC on the property of 4709 Oak Orchard Road (95.3-1-45) and

RESOLVED, to approve the Site Plan Review.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Keeler – Aye
 Mr. DePatie – Aye
 Mr. Dudley – Aye
 Mr. Harling – Aye
 Mr. Mathes – Aye
 Mrs. Shuknecht – Aye

The resolution passed.

The SEQR was reviewed for the application of RTO.

Resolution 12-2022

Introduced by: Kurt Dudley
 Seconded by: Jean DePatie

WHEREAS the Town of Barre Planning Board has reviewed Part 2 of the SEAF SEQR form for the application of RTO Wireless LLC on the property of 4709 Oak Orchard Road (95.3-1-45) and

RESOLVED, to declare a negative SEAF SEQR

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Keeler – Aye
 Mr. DePatie – Aye
 Mr. Dudley – Aye
 Mr. Harling – Aye
 Mr. Mathes – Aye
 Mrs. Shuknecht – Aye

The resolution passed.

In regards to the Special Use Permit part of the RTO application:

- Mr. Chianis is aware that a Special Use Permit is only good for a year and then needs to be renewed. This is based upon the current condition applied for
- If there is new equipment or changes made, any modification requires a new application
- If there is a change of ownership, the new owners must apply for a new Special Use Permit

Resolution 13-2022

Introduced by: Kirk Mathes
Seconded by: Anna Shuknecht

WHEREAS Planning Board has reviewed the application of RTO Wireless LLC on the property of 4709 Oak Orchard Road (95.3-1-45) and

RESOLVED, that the Special Use Permit be approved with the three conditions listed above

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Keeler – Aye
Mr. DePatie – Aye
Mr. Dudley – Aye
Mr. Harling – Aye
Mr. Mathes – Aye
Mrs. Shuknecht – Aye

The resolution passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mathes stated that he and Mr. Dudley traveled to Lowville, New York and had a two-hour tour of their wind farms. They have three existing farms and a new one going up. The three existing farms were along a ridge and the new project will have taller turbines.

- There was not a lot of resistance to the projects. However, they are not a bedroom community like we are
- All hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts along with restaurants were full
- Their turbines were located in the woods
- Should widen corners of the roads
- The first projects were based on assessments and not output. Lowville lost money on basing project on assessment and strongly suggested going by potential megawatt

- They forgot to ask about food trucks
- Some roads were paved
- Setbacks were not much on the first project
- The biggest issue of course is sight
- There was some noise but you get used to it
- Buried cables under driveways
- They have big dairy farms and they farm right up around the turbines
- It is going to be busy during construction

Mr. Harling stated that he has recently worked in a food truck. All of the regulations went through the County Health Department. They cannot move the truck. If they wish to move the they would need to contact the County Health Department and be reapproved.

IV. COMMUNICATION

ORLEANS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

May and June meetings were cancelled.

Mail was received from the Public Service Commission issued June 22nd regarding Heritage Wind was read concerning the virtual public hearing on July 14th at 5 pm with written comments due July 15th. The letter had instructions on specific instructions. Mrs. Preston was asked to scan and send to the members of the board.

V. ADJORNMENT

Mr. Harling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm; seconded by Mr. DePatie and carried (6-0).

Lee A. Preston, Clerk