

**TOWN OF BARRE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: The board met at the Town Hall with the meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by chair Mr. Coville.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Coville David Allen
Kelly Dudley Larry Gaylard
Charles Swan

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Others Present: Dustin Wyman of NB&C (Verizon), Robert Burgdorf, Esq. from Nixon Peabody (Verizon), Brent Leddon, and Town of Barre Attorney Bridget O’Toole

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 21, 2023

Mr. Gaylard made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 21st meeting with one spelling error and seconded by Mr. Swan and carried (5-0).

II. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Coville asked Mr. Burgdorf to present the application of Bell Atlantic/Verizon application. He stated that Verizon is a public utility with inadequate coverage in this area. The tower can not be too high or too low because of interferences. Mr. Burgdorf pointed out section G – 16 with the existing coverage and G – 17 of what would be the coverage with the new tower. Section H with the large red circle was the targeted area for the new tower. We will co-locate, if possible, on tall buildings, silos, church steeples. However, that is not possible in this area. Therefore, we contacted landowners that were not in wetlands. There were 16 sites identified with the outcome being the Daniels residence. The tower will be 174 feet tall with attached lighting rod, a 100x100 equipment base, not lighted and surrounded by a chain link fence. FAA approval is needed as well; therefore, it would be a conditional approval until they approve the tower which Verizon expects it to be. Private air strips are exempt from consideration. A height variance is needed from the zoning board. The planning board has also reviewed the application for a special use permit and site plan review. Discussion took place:

- Drop zone was asked about. The tower is rated for 100 mph winds which are extremely rare in this area. The fall zone would be half the height of the tower and there is plenty of room around the tower.
- MRB Group has been hired by the town as the engineer for the project
- The planning board declared itself the lead agency for the SEQR review and is an unlisted action

- Other towers have multiple different “chains” securing the tower, will this tower also? This tower is a lattice tower and will not have chains.
- There used to be good cell reception in the western part of the town and now there is not because of the signal bouncing around. This tower should eliminate this
- What about TV and radio interference? If it happens, someone is on a wrong frequency and needs to be corrected by federal law
- The engineer’s report is hopefully going to be completed by late September. With that completed, the boards should be able to submit the application to the County Planning Board at October’s meeting. This would allow a combined public hearing to be scheduled for November 13th. The date was agreeable to the zoning board as it is not a normal meeting date for them

Mr. Coville asked for volunteers to representative the zoning board on the Comprehensive Plan review committee. After a moment, Mrs. Dudley said she would volunteer. Mr. Gaylard volunteered to be the alternate representative.

A brief discussion was had with Mr. Leddon for the alternate position.

Resolution 22-2023

Introduced by: Charles Swan
Seconded by: Kelly Dudley

WHEREAS the Town of Barre Zoning Board of Appeals has an alternate position vacancy and have conducted an interview

THEREFORE, to recommend to the Town Board to appoint Mr. Leddon as the alternate

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Coville – Aye
 Mr. Allen – Aye
 Mrs. Dudley – Aye
 Mr. Gaylard – Aye
 Mr. Swan – Aye

The resolution passed.

Discussion took place regarding the Bell Atlantic/Verizon application concerning the referral to the County Planning Board if one was needed from this board.

WHEREAS the Town of Barre Zoning Board of Appeals has received an application from Bell Atlantic/Verizon to construct a telecommunications tower on property located at 14295 West Barre Road (106-1-73.1) needing a height variance

THEREFORE, to recommend the application be send to the County Planning Board to receive their recommendation once the engineer’s report has been received by the town’s planning board

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Coville – Aye
Mr. Allen – Aye
Mrs. Dudley – Aye
Mr. Gaylard – Aye
Mr. Swan – Aye

The resolution passed.

VI. ADJORNMENT

Mr. Swan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm; seconded by Mr. Allen and carried (5-0).

Lee A. Preston, Clerk