

**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
February 18, 2015**

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Approving the agenda.
3. Open the Public Hearing for AT&T Mobility's cell phone tower (Fisher Road) application.
4. Close the Public Hearing
5. Open the regular meeting of the Planning Commission.
6. Conduct the business of the Planning Commission.
7. Adjourn.

**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
February 18, 2015**

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard and Barre Town Planning Commission was held on February 18, 2015 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking public comment on the proposed AT&T Mobility's cell phone tower (Fisher Road) application.

The following Selectboard members were in attendance: Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, and Jeff Blow.

The following Planning Commission members were in attendance: Chair Cedric Sanborn, John Hameline, Charles Thygesen Sr., Ken Yearman, and George Clain. Absent members: Clair Duke and Chris Violette.

Others in attendance: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Renz Bautista (AT&T's radiofrequency engineer), Peter Katz (site acquisition agent), Kane Smart (Downs Rachlin & Martin), and Dan Burke and Clay Purvis (Telecommunication Division for the Vermont Department of Public Service).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Planning Commission Chair Cedric Sanborn.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC HEARING

By consensus the Public Hearing for AT&T Mobility's proposed cell tower on off Fisher Road was opened.

The applicant's representative Kane Smart provided a power point presentation. He spoke to the Section 248a application process and the need for an "okay" prior to submitting the application (no earlier than March 16, 2015).

Details of the pole construction, antennae placement, siting (includes fenced compound, equipment shelter, generator, and access gate) and power needs were reviewed. There was discussion regarding compound security (possible lighting of tower), the generator, and power requirements and maintenance for said power. Mr. Smart noted the utilities at this point are fluid. Customarily they are one of the last items to be finalized. He further stated that having underground utility lines is very doable. Primary ownership of the utility lines will be addressed through an easement with the utility provider.

Joint Selectboard and Planning Commission Minutes of February 18, 2015 continued:

The joint Boards were provided photos and a brief synopsis of the visibility testing process. It was further noted the FAA has strict guidelines regarding the lighting of cell towers.

Attorneys Dan Burke and Clay Purvis were present. They are not part of the Public Service Board but work for the Dept. of Public Service as advocates for the various parties.

The process for adding additional antennae was described. There are no plans at this time for the installation of additional towers in the Barre Area. Project notification letters were sent to the two abutters, but the neighboring municipality, Barre City, was not required to be noticed.

The Planning Commission bottom line on the project is as follows:

1. There are no issues regarding views.
2. There are no issues regarding tower height.
3. The Commission would prefer underground electrical utilities instead of overhead lines.
4. The Commission would defer to FAA regulations and not require a beacon light on the tower.
5. The gate at the compound is okay - as the fenced area should be adequate. However, they are not sure a gate at the lower road entrance is necessary as does nothing to enhance the compounds security.
6. The generator secondary containment system is in question. The Commission would like to see a sump system with a 150% fluid capacity.

The consensus of the Planning Commission is that a letter will be drafted detailing the concerns and will ensure a copy is forwarded to the Department of Public Service. A form has been included with the informational packet to provide the Commission with guidance on what to include in their response letter.

The Public Hearing ended at 8:55 p.m.

MINUTES

On a motion by Charles Thygesen, seconded by John Hameline, the Planning Commission minutes of December 17, 2014 are approved as presented. Ken and George abstained and Claire Duke was not present for the vote.

On a motion by George Clain, seconded by John Hameline, the Planning Commission minutes of January 21, 2015 are approved with the following amendments:

1. *Page 6, under first DISCUSSION title, delete the paragraph and reinsert as follows:
"Yearman stated that putting this issue off for a month is setting a precedent. The Board members are not business counselors. In Yearmans opinion, asking the applicant to investigate certain financial aspects of his business proposal is overstepping."*
2. *Page 7, under title CONDITIONS: item #4, first sentence delete the word "Will" and insert the word May.*

Cedric Sanborn and John Hameline abstained. Claire Duke and Chris Violette were not present.

'ROUND THE TABLE

Yearman attended the Energy Summit at Vermont Technical College today and it was great. The well attended event was reported on the evening news.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Thygesen, seconded by Yearman, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Chair

Barre Town Planning Commission

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