

**Mount Holly Special Select Board Meeting**  
**October 29, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Present: Select Board:** Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews

**Town Officials:** Dan Connor, Jon McCann, Brigid Sullivan

**Members of Public:** Paul Barton, Nancy Connor, James Corven, Barbara Hazelton, Steve Hazelton, Annette Lynch, Kevin Plew, Sandra Predom, Don Richardson, Peter Smith, Monique Szechenyi, Ray Tarbell, Ken Weinstein

1. **Call to Order** by chair Mark Turco at 7:00 p.m.

2. All stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

3. **Review Designs of Proposed Cell Tower** – Sandra Predom rose to give a presentation, stating that she and several neighbors would prefer a design like that of the Richmond cell tower. She read a letter from Brett Wright stating that they had looked at a number of cell towers around the State and preferred the tapered pine design with branch density coming down to just below the canopy of surrounding trees. Mr. Wright wrote that he considered this to be a win-win situation for the town with improved cell service provided by a tower disguised as a pine so as to not detract from the scenic views. Ms. Predom showed several simulations of the tower, first as a monopole and then disguised as a pine tree from several locations in town: Fenn Road, Stewart Road North, VT Route 103 at Summit & Old Turnpike Roads, and from Hortonville Road. Peter Smith, Brigid Sullivan, Dan and Nancy Connor, Ken Weinstein all spoke and/or stated they were in favor of the tower as a pine. Jon McCann read a letter in support of the design as a pine. Sandra Predom reiterated the desire to ask AT&T to disguise the tower as a pine, like the one in Richmond, with branches to the canopy. Discussion ensued on the pine design, its evolution, branch density, branches to the canopy, eventual deconstruction.

4. **Finalize Town Recommendation on Proposed AT&T/FirstNet Cell Tower Project** – Mark Turco stated that the Select Board had received a number of emails, many from those in attendance at the meeting, and had heard from residents with various recommendations on the design of the cell tower. Ron Tarbell recused himself from the vote. Jennifer Matthews made a motion to welcome the project into Mount Holly given the importance of cell service in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with this project as a first step in bringing that service to town and as a building block from which to expand. She noted that there were numerous opinions on the design of the tower but that those who would see the tower from their windows and dooryards overwhelmingly supported the design of the tower as a pine. As such, she continued that the Select Board should recommend to AT&T to disguise the tower as a tapered pine tree with branches coming down to the natural canopy of the trees. Mr. Turco seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Steve Hazelton asked about some of the specifics mentioned in the meeting. Mr. Turco responded that those would be included in the Select Board's recommendation both to AT&T and the Public Utilities Commission (see attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 11.12.2019

**Mount Holly Select Board's Recommendation on**  
**Proposed AT&T/FirstNet Telecommunications Project**

The Mount Holly Select Board recommends the proposed AT&T/FirstNet Telecommunications Project to be located at 581 Stewart Road South subject to the following conditions:

- the monopole to be in the shape of a tapered pine tree with the branches becoming longer in length as they extend down the trunk to the natural canopy of surrounding trees
- the monopole to preferably have 2.5 to 3 branches per foot
- a whip antenna to be included for use by local first responders

With these conditions, we look forward to welcoming this project to the Town of Mount Holly along with the services it will provide both first responders and residents alike.