

Shutesbury Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2017 Shutesbury Town Hall

Select Board members present: Michael DeChiara/Chair, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, and Timothy Logan

Planning Board members present: Deacon Bonnar/Chair, Jeff Lacy, Jim Aaron, Linda Rotondi, and Robert Raymond

Staff present: Becky Torres/Town Administrator; Linda Avis Scott/Administrative Secretary

This meeting of the Select Board took place within the 10.16.17 Planning Board meeting.

Cell Tower Zoning/Possible Zoning Amendment List: DeChiara calls the Select Board meeting to order and notes that in July, the Select Board considered its priorities including the intent to identify win-win projects, i.e. improved cell service for residents. DeChiara continues: a tower could bring revenue to the town and increase salability of homes; the best location may be behind town hall; cell companies are looking to expand their service area on Route 202; it seems the intent of the current bylaw was to “keep cell phones” out, so the question is whether to update the existing language or do a total rewrite. DeChiara highlighted areas of the “Wireless Communications Facilities” bylaw for the Planning Board to consider for revision. Bonnar takes issue with the characterization that the Planning Board wrote the bylaw to prevent towers; the intent was to ensure safety, i.e. the fall zone requirement. Raymond: how will a tower affect service in other areas of town? DeChiara: that research is not yet available. Rotondi: our main concern is cell service to Shutesbury residents, not coverage on Rt. 202. DeChiara: a cell tower company will not provide a tower only for our town; if we were to negotiate a location in the town center, we may be able to negotiate repeaters for the Lake Wyola area. Bonnar: our height limit would not stand up in court. Lacy: the Board may consider a height limit waiver; there is a “three times the height” distance limit to an abutting dwelling. Torres: we do not have the demographics and/or population to justify a cell tower; a number of proposed tower projects in the area have failed. Bonnar: the most recent application for an AT&T tower on Morse Hill was withdrawn. Logan: given that the height restriction can be waived, revising the bylaw is moot. Bonnar suggests considering that revision of the cell tower bylaw be added to the “Zoning Projects to Consider in FY2018” list. Bonnar: research into a location, the potential number of persons served and what type of tower would provide how much service will be helpful. DeChiara: the Select Board has accomplished their goal for coming before the Planning Board. DeChiara moves to adjourn the Select Board meeting; motion is seconded by Makepeace-O'Neil and passes unanimously.

Document Used at the Meeting:

1. Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw Section 8.7 Wireless Communications Facilities with DeChiara's highlights

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Avis Scott
Administrative Secretary