

HDC Approved Minutes – 10/17/16

Members present: J. Bergeron, K. Burnett, M. Roy, T. Lemoi

Others present: M. Samson (Town Administrator), C. Lemoi, Bruce Shinn

Meeting opened: 7:15 PM

Discussion of the proposed Verizon cell tower to be placed at 559 Fernwood Farms Road. The question before the committee: Do we want to comment on the proposed cell tower's impact on the Canaan Historic District properties?

The group agreed we did want to comment, even though we were not asked directly by Verizon to respond.

Mike Sampson provided some background on the need for cell service for commercial development, as well as for public safety. He also provided information on his considerable efforts over the years to bring that service to Canaan.

The letter that was agreed upon by the HDC is attached.

Minutes of the August 15, 2016 were read and approved with two corrections.

Motion to approve: MR

Second: TL

In favor: All

Motion to adjourn: MR

Second: TL

In favor: All

Meeting adjourned 9:15

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Burnett

October 17, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to take the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding the impact of a proposed cell tower at 559 Fernwood Farms Road on the Historic District in the town of Canaan, NH.

A 150 foot tower on the proposed site would be plainly visible in the very well-known Canaan Historic District (National Register of Historic Places) area along Canaan Street, which is frequented by residents, tourists and visiting families of Cardigan Mountain School students. In particular, the view from the Historic Museum and the Canaan Meetinghouse (National Register of Historic Places) properties would be affected in a very obvious way, as they are both oriented directly toward the view to Cardigan Mountain, over Canaan Street Lake. In addition to these two historic properties, there are several other historic properties whose viewscapes would be adversely affected for the same reason. The public beach is centrally located in the Historic District and the view toward Cardigan Mountain from that location would be significantly impacted, as well. The beach is regularly utilized by many people from the Mascoma Valley and is recognized by many as one of the loveliest public places in the Upper Valley. The cell tower directly across the lake from the beach would mar the view from all of these locations.

We understand the value of cellular service in Canaan may outweigh the negative impact on the Historic District. However, we would encourage you to examine other sites in Canaan that would provide comparable service without compromising the beautiful and historic properties in the District.

Thank you for considering these comments.

John Bergeron, Chairman  
Canaan Historic District Commission