

APPROVED
Historic District Commission
Public Meeting
April 14, 2016

Members attending: John Fitzwilliam, Ken Beckwith, Helen Collins, Jean Camden, Bill Davis

Others: Chris Holman, Selectmen's representative

CTO: 4:00 PM

Blue Sky Towers application to locate a wireless communications facility (cell tower) on Map 15, Lot 6-12, known as the Pinnacle, Rural and Historic Districts, with access from Upper Troy Road. The tower will accommodate the WiValley broadband internet equipment and Fitzwilliam public safety/mutual aid equipment, T-Mobile cellular service, with space for three other cellular service carriers to co-locate on this tower below the two cited above. The tower is 125 feet high with an additional 8 feet of antennas. The tower will be located in a forested area, 580 feet from the nearest abutter.

Attorney Earl Duval, representing Blue Sky Towers, presented plot plans to each member, describing the project. They plan to construct a wireless communication facility (cell tower) on the Pinnacle, on property owned by Steve Filipi, leased to Blue Sky Towers. The WiValley tower is currently located on the Pinnacle with broadband internet and public safety equipment located on it. The WiValley tower is 121 feet high. Attorney Duval said Blue Sky Towers received a variance to locate a new tower on the pinnacle and they are working with WiValley to remove the WiValley tower and relocate the equipment to the new tower. He said that the WiValley tower could only support the equipment now on it; it is not structurally sound for additional equipment.

Duval said T-Mobile coverage in Fitzwilliam is not good, and working with the ZBA, they determined that the original site they proposed was not the best for the town. Based on extensive research, they determined that the Pinnacle site was best. This site provides the greatest in-vehicle and in-building coverage in town. It is likely to be the only tower, as well, with co-location sites on the tower for four carriers, including T-Mobile.

The tower is a monopole located at an elevation 17 feet lower than the existing WiValley tower, which they located purposely to be farther away from the nearest residence. He described the existing access road, adding that no changes in the access road are anticipated. Davis asked who will maintain the access road. Mr. Duval said the landowner and home owner on the road will maintain it. He said the carriers will insure snow removal.

The 75' by 75' compound is for ground based equipment for all carriers located on the tower. The equipment will be enclosed in a 65' by 65' fenced enclosure topped with barbed wire. A 12 foot access gate will allow entry for personnel; it will be locked at all other times. A person may be on-site for maintenance once a month or so, but the equipment will be remotely monitored at all times. T-Mobile equipment will be located on a concrete pad in equipment cabinets. Other carriers will place their equipment on concrete slabs, sheltered in some way. Beckwith asked about the power lines. Mr. Filipi said the poles are already there with wires overhead up to 150 feet from the WiValley tower, where it goes underground to the tower. He said the same situation will serve the new tower.

Attorney Duval distributed photos of the balloon test. He told the commissioners they also prepared photo simulations where the proposed tower is substituted for the balloon. Fitzwilliam said it was hard to see the simulated tower through all the powerlines!

Commissioners reviewed the model of the proposed tower with the location of the various carriers – WiValley and Public Safety equipment is located at the top, T-Mobile is just under the WiValley equipment with three

other co-location sites beneath. The dish antennas originally thought to be necessary, which are shown on the model, will not be needed.

Davis said that greater coverage will be wonderful. All agreed.

Davis moved, Beckwith seconded and the Commissioners voted to approve the Blue Sky Tower application as presented.

Minutes. Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting. Collins moved, Camden seconded and the Commissioners approved the minutes as written.

Fitzwilliam described a request from Alan Cates to remove a chimney on the Community Church, which is leaking water into the building. It will be replaced with slate, in keeping with the rest of the roof. The chimney is on the southwest side of the church and it has not been used for many years. Fitzwilliam said the chimney is “in the woods” and its removal will not be noticed. Commissioners agreed this was a necessary repair.

Beckwith moved, Davis seconded and the commissioners adjourned the meeting at 4:40 PM.