



Dummerston Planning Commission

Public Hearing on Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Dummerston Congregational Church

Present

Planning Commissioners: Joe Little(Chair), Annamarie Pluhar, Maria Glabach, Sarah Bergh, Deb Forrett, Sam Farwell, Nicole Talbot, Brian Richardson, Bev Tier

Public: Zeke Goodband, (Chair, Selectboard)

Joe Little opened the hearing at 7:00, introduced the zoning amendments and explained the purpose of the public hearing.

Zeke Goodband: question regarding origins of telecommunications facilities proposed bylaw- where did the planning commission get its draft.

Sam Farwell responded: the PC started with a model bylaw draft from VT League of Cities and Towns and also with the current Dummerston ordinance on telecommunications facilities.

Sam acknowledged written comments from Roger Jasaitis, Dummerston Zoning Administrator in the form of an email including a proposed addition to the telecommunications facilities bylaw of a list of definitions (attached.)

Hearing no more comments, Joe adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:08.

Proposed definitions from Roger Jasaitis:

Section 910 Definitions

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: The Town's Zoning Administrator as defined in Section 700 of the Zoning Bylaw.

ADEQUATE CAPACITY: Capacity for wireless telephony is considered to be "adequate" if the grade of service (GOS) is p.05 ore better for median teletraffic levels offered during the typical busy hour, as assessed by direct measurement of the facility in question. The GOS shall be determined by the use of standard Erland B calculations. A call blocking may occur in either the land line or radio portions of a wire less network, Adequate Capacity for this article shall apply only to the capacity of the radio components. Where capacity must be determined prior to the installation of the wireless

telecommunications facility in question, Adequate Capacity shall be determined on the basis of a 20% busy hour (20% of all offered traffic occurring within the busiest hour of the day), with total daily traffic based on aggregate estimates of the expected traffic in the coverage area.

ADEQUATE COVERAGE: Coverage for wireless telephony is “adequate” within that area surrounding a base station where the predicted or measured median field of strength of the transmitted signal is such that most of the time, transceivers properly installed and operated will be able to communicate with the base station without objectionable noise (or excessive bit -error-rate for digital) and without calls being dropped. In the case of cellular communications in a rural environment, this would be signal strength of at least -90 dBm. It is acceptable for there to be holes within the area of adequate coverage as long as the signal regains its strength further away from the base station. The outer boundary of the area of adequate coverage, however, is that location past which the signal does not regain.

ANTENNA: A device that is attached to a tower or other structure for transmitting and receiving electromagnetic waves.

ANTENNA HEIGHT: The vertical distance measured from the base of the antenna support structure at grade to the highest point of the structure. If the support structure is on a sloped grade, then the average between the highest and lowest grades shall be used in calculating the antenna height.

APPLICANT: A person who or entity which applies for a telecommunications facility siting. An applicant can be the wireless telecommunications service provider or the owner of the property.

COLLOCATION: Location wireless communications equipment from more than one provider on a single site.

FREQUENCY: The number of cycles completed each second by an electromagnetic wave measured in Hertz (Htz).

PERMIT: A document which defines the rights and obligations extended by the Town to an applicant to own, construct, maintain, and operate its facility within the boundaries of the Town.

TOWER: A vertical structure for antennas that provide wireless telecommunications services.

WIRELESS SERVICE:

*"Wireless service" means any commercial mobile radio service, wireless service, common carrier wireless exchange service, cellular service, personal communications service (PCS), specialized mobile radio service, paging service, wireless data service, or public or private radio dispatch service.

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY: All equipment and locations of equipment with which a wireless telecommunications provider transmits and receives the waves which carry their services. This facility may be sited on one or more tower or structure(s) owned and permitted by the provider or another owner or entity.

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDER: An entity licensed by the FCC to provide telecommunications services to individuals or institutions.

Alternate definitions;

* "Telecommunications facility" means a communications facility that transmits and receives signals to and from a local, State, national, or international network used primarily for two-way communications for commercial, industrial, municipal, county, or State purposes and any associated support structure that is proposed for construction or installation which is primarily for communications purposes, and any ancillary improvements that are proposed for construction or installation and are primarily intended to serve the communications facilities or support structure. An applicant may seek approval of construction or installation of a telecommunications facility whether or not the telecommunications facility is attached to an existing structure.

**"Telecommunications facility" means a support structure which is primarily for communication or broadcast purposes and which will extend vertically 20 feet, or more, above the highest point of an attached existing structure or 50 feet or more above ground level in the case of a proposed new support structure, in order to transmit or receive communication signals for commercial, industrial, municipal, county, or state purposes.

*From 30 V.S.A. § 248a

**From 10 V.S.A. § 6001

Submitted by Sam Farwell