

Renaë Marshall

From: Alex Weinhagen <hinesburgplanning@gmavt.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:18 PM
To: Renaë Marshall
Cc: Joe Colangelo
Subject: Wireless Telecom Application Information

Renaë, Joe,

Here is an update about the three wireless telecommunication Public Service Board (PSB) applications for Hinesburg that we have received notice about in recent weeks. We are typically provided notification 45 days before a formal application is submitted to the PSB. As you know, both the Selectboard and the Planning Commission are parties to the PSB review process. Hard copy of the applications was sent to both the Selectboard and the Planning Commission. Digital versions of these applications (at least the two new facilities) can be made available.

VTel facility – 1570 Baldwin Road – property owned by Andrea Baldwin Haulenbeek. Notice dated February 13. The proposed facility consists of a new 75' pole with nine panel antennas and two microwave dish antennas; an equipment cabinet on a 7' x 7' concrete pad; a 12' wide gravel access road extending approximately 350' from Baldwin Road to the equipment pad; underground power and telecom lines extending along the access road from the equipment pad to a new utility pole.

** The Planning Commission plans to briefly discuss the VTel project at their March 26 meeting. Originally this was scheduled for their March 12 meeting, but that was cancelled due to a winter storm. A VTel representative plans to attend the meeting and give a brief project overview.

AT&T facility – northeast corner of town – property owned by Audrey Linn Trust and Joseph and Lori Linn. Notice dated February 28. This is an undeveloped, landlocked parcel. Access to this site will be from Williams Road in Richmond. This facility is one of three proposed by AT&T to improve coverage primarily in Richmond – the other two proposed facilities are in Richmond. The proposed facility consists of a new 100' tower using a “monopine” camouflage design with 12 panel antennas; an 11.5' x 16' equipment shelter on a concrete pad; a diesel emergency backup generator located on the pad adjacent to the shelter; a fenced 50' x 50' graveled site for the aforementioned equipment; a 12' wide gravel access road extending approximately 2,700' from Williams Road (to follow portions of an existing woods road); utilities (power & telephone lines) running overhead along three new utility poles on Williams Road, and routed underground along the access road to the facility. This facility is being designed to allow for co-location by at least three additional wireless carriers.

** The Planning Commission tentatively plans to discuss the AT&T project at their April 9 meeting. We anticipate that a AT&T representative will attend to give a brief project overview.

**NOTE – The Town of Richmond is very engaged with AT&T on this and the other two facilities proposed in Richmond. Their Selectboard and Planning Commission are holding a joint meeting on March 24 at 7pm at the Richmond library.

AT&T facility upgrade – existing silo facility on Leavensworth Road – property owned by Nancy Jenkins. Notice dated March 7. According to their submission cover letter, they have six existing panel antennas on the silo, and approval to add six more (per a 2008 DRB approval). They propose to replace three of the existing panel antennas, and add six of a slightly larger size from what was originally approved. They will also be making minor changes to the equipment serving the antennas, as well as changes within the existing equipment shed.

Under current Vermont law, wireless telecom facilities that go through the PSB review process are entirely exempt from municipal zoning/subdivision review until July 1st of this year. This means that although Hinesburg's zoning regulations

include a whole chapter dedicated to wireless telecom permitting, there will be no Town-level review or permits. Given that, interested parties that want to give feedback or express support or concern have to do it via: 1) directly to the applicant (via their representative at Downs Rachlin Martin law firm in Burlington); 2) via comments to the PSB as part of their review process.

Among the criteria considered by the PSB is whether the project is consistent with the recommendations of the Selectboard, Planning Commission, and Regional Planning Commission. These recommendations can be based on the Town Plan as well as the Zoning Regulations. All three applications discuss the project's conformance (from the applicant's standpoint) with the Hinesburg Town Plan and Zoning Regulations. I plan to highlight some potential issues for the Planning Commission and the applicant to consider:

VTel facility:

1. Was the existing wireless telecom facility on Leavensworth Road (a barn silo used by one or two other carriers) considered by VTel? Why is it not a viable co-location option?
2. Why is the VTel facility is not being designed to allow for co-location of future carriers the way the AT&T facility off Williams Road is?
3. The proposed access road appears to climb a very steep slope, which may cause stormwater runoff impacts to Baldwin Road. Our regulations generally prohibit development (including roads/driveways) on slopes 25% or greater. The access road appears to impact these sorts of steep slopes. Is there a way to avoid this?
4. Are there provisions to retain the woods around the facility on the Haulenbeek property? Visually speaking, this facility seems reasonable to me, but it would be less so if the woods were substantially cleared around it someday.

AT&T facility (proposed new one):

1. What stormwater runoff control measures will be taken along the very long access road, which travels over some very steep terrain?
2. Our regulations generally prohibit development (including roads/driveways) on slopes 25% or greater. The access road appears to impact these sorts of steep slopes. Is there a way to avoid this?

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