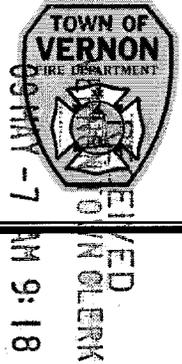




TOWN OF VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 54
Vernon, CT 06066
www.vernonfire.com



May 6, 2009

Present: Bill Call, Bill Campbell, Diane Carpenter, Hal Cummings, Steve Eppler, Jack Fisher, Bill Graugard, Marie Herbst, Bob Kelley, Jim Kenny

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to review the status of the Box Mountain Communication Tower since the February 18, 2009 meeting.

Hal Cummings reviewed quarry excavation/town open space areas. He has had several discussions with Al Meier regarding placement of the proposed tower. An access easement from Box Mountain / driveway permit was being reviewed. The Propagation study conducted by the cell company proved that our location of the tower was too high for their needs. Their interest was for a lower location to allow for a site line with their other towers. This could cause a problem with communications to our Fox Hill site. Additionally, the cell phone company has interest in constructing an additional site in Vernon which conflicts with our interests and potentially could create a opposition of the entire process.

Mr. Meier does not want to give up a part of his land, and does not want to irritate his neighbors with a view of the tower. He has entertained a possible tax credit from the town of approx \$3,000 per year for granting access. He has rejected a direct offer from the cell phone company for a rental fee of \$12,000 per year.

There is no other Vernon owned land that is not subject to open space. It was agreed that Tony Guglielmo, Claire Janowski and Joan Lewis be brought in to discuss exemption from open space restrictions. It is hoped these Legislators could help us submit a waiver to locate a communications tower for municipal/public safety & homeland security purposes. Marie did not believe it would be difficult to attach this to a bill that is already being submitted. We need to get our Legislators involved immediately.

Hal is willing to work on wording with the Legislators to obtain Senate and House approval.

Jack Fisher expressed concern that the neighbors will have a problem with the new location. Bill Campbell believes that we still need to pursue the approval process, even if the cell company backs out. At least we'll have the approvals in place to pursue in the future.

A blanket open ended rider stating that the Town of Vernon is authorized to construct a town municipal owned tower on open space property was discussed. This would allow the tower to be placed in a variety of locations on Box Mountain open space and reduce the neighborhood opposition. It is also believed there would be less opposition from the citing commission. Our primary concern is the ultimate location will communicate with Fox Hill.

Chief Call will contact Claire Janowski ASAP to schedule the meeting. Chief Call, Hal Cummings, Bill Campbell and Marie Herbst at minimum should meet with the Legislators to get this moving. He will email the committee with any pertinent information.

The meeting concluded at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter, Secretary