

TRURO PLANNING BOARD

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2015 - 6:00 pm

Truro Town Hall

Planning Board Members Present: Leo Childs, Chris Lucy, Bruce Boleyn, Steve Sollog, William Worthington, and Michael Roderick

Member Absent: Lisa Maria Tobia

Other Present: Charleen Greenhalgh ATA/Planner, Greg Bostwick, Richard Wood and Shawn Grunwald

Mr. Childs opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

2014-004PB Sprint Spectrum, L.P. (CCATT LLC), Special Permit, 344 Route 6

Mr. Childs explained that this was a continuation from the November 18, 2014, December 17, 2014 and January 6, 2015 meetings for the Special Permit hearing. At this time the applicant has requested a Withdrawal without Prejudice of the application. This request made via an email to Mrs. Greenhalgh on February 9, 2015. The applicant did however provide additional information relative to the overall tower, which is now part of the case file. On a motion from Mr. Boleyn, seconded by Mr. Sollog, the Board approved the request for the withdrawal without prejudice of the application for a Special Permit by Sprint Spectrum, L.P. 6-0-0.

T-Mobile, Pre-Application Conference for Cell Tower, 344 Route 6

Representative: Gary Bostwick

The applicant seeks a Pre-Application Conference pursuant to §40.5.17 of the Truro Zoning By-law to facilitate the permitting process between the applicant and the Planning Board in order to clarify and resolve concerns of the board and to minimize potential problems with an application to: 1) Remove six (6) panel antennas and replace with six (6) antennas of similar size; 2) Remove six (6) Tower Mounted Amplifiers (TMAs) and add three (3) twin TMAs; 3) Add three (3) 7/8" cables; 4) Add one (1) Location Monitoring Unit (LMU) to equipment cabinet; and, 5) Add one (1) equipment cabinet on the ground onto an existing Wireless Communication Facility Tower located behind the Truro Public Safety Facility at 344 Route 6, Atlas Map 39, Parcel 172.A.

Mr. Bostwick distributed some additional information, including a more recent structural analysis, which includes the proposed equipment (copies of which are available in the Planning Board case file.) Specifications on the antenna to be removed and those to be added are included. He clarified that the structural analysis provided to the Board does not include the appendices, which are 35 pages. The new antennas are slightly wider and longer. The antennas contain more components within the body of the antenna to reduce other outside components. This would support LTE technology, while maintaining the existing technology (3G, 4G, etc.) The antennas are heavier and the additional weight has been incorporated into the structural analysis. Each antenna weighs approximately 75 lbs. He will provide more of a breakdown at the time of the Special Permit application. The packet also included the specifications of the amplifiers to be removed and added (which is slightly smaller) and the proposed cabinet.

Mr. Bostwick spoke to noise, which he understands has been a problem, the proposed cabinet is not noisy. The additional cabinet would sit on the existing pad. The plans presented as part of the pre-application submittal outline what the project is. The T-Mobile antennas are at 96 feet, with other larger antennas located above which are owned by other companies. Mr. Worthington is sensitive to the sound issues, which have been raised by an abutter. He is aware that tubing with uncapped ends act like an organ pipe.

He wants to be sure that all components are capped properly to diminish noise. Mr. Bostwick does not see a problem with this request to cap components.

Mr. Roderick asked that the letter from the abutter (Jennifer Cohen) be read. Mr. Childs read the letter into the record (a copy is available in the Planning Board case file). Mr. Roderick asked that at some point, he would like the applicant to respond to the issues raised. Mr. Bostwick is not familiar with the history or with which component(s) is/are making the noise. T-Mobile is only a lessee on the structure. Mr. Roderick asked that the equipment that is going to be placed be addressed as far as noise. Mr. Bostwick will share this concern with the tower owner.

Mr. Lucy said he was at the site during the recent January storm and it was very noisy and very windy. As this is a remove and replace, he cannot imagine that the proposal will result in more noise, or even if that can be figured out. It was noted that in the original agreement, there was to be capping of all open pipes. If there is data to show how much noise is created at certain wind speeds that would be helpful. Mr. Bostwick expressed that it is important to make the distinction between noise created by the components on the ground and with those on the tower. He explained that there should be a direct contact with the owner (Crown Castle) for the Town. He believes that there may be the need to tighten up some of the existing equipment on the tower. Mr. Boleyn would like to be in a position to reduce the noise. Mr. Sollog said that the Board cannot take the tower away, it is an unfortunate situation. He knows it is an issue. Mr. Childs explained that the Board has been dealing with this for a long time. Mr. Roderick understands that the applicant is only a tenant, but this is the only opportunity to ask these questions.

There would be less equipment with this proposal, so this is making some progress per Mr. Childs. The Board reviewed the previous review that was completed for Sprint Spectrum when they came before the Board last year for a pre-application conference. Mr. Sollog spoke to derelict equipment and whether this can be removed. Mr. Bostwick explained that it is his experience that towers that are at full capacity have little to no derelict or extra equipment; however as this tower is only at 62% capacity, there may be equipment that can be removed. He will go back to Crown Castle to ask them these questions. Mrs. Greenhalgh shared with the Board that there have been conversations between the abutter and the Town. Town Staff has reviewed the information provided by Sprint Spectrum (as noted under the Sprint Spectrum action above and which now part of this application file.) At this time the preliminary information indicates that the tower loading is satisfactory and that the grounding was completed correctly. Staff does recommend that there be an engineer signed and stamp structural analysis from T-Mobile to confirm this. Mrs. Greenhalgh suggested that perhaps the materials presented this evening by Mr. Bostwick may address this concern, but it would still need to be submitted at the time of the Special Permit filing. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

The Board reviewed the checklist of the items that will be required of the applicant. The Board agreed that the plans presented were acceptable and additionally that the following information would need to be filed for a Special Permit pursuant to §40.5:

1. §40.5.B (19.f). Be sure to include in the narrative a statement of the services to be supported by the proposed communications structure, building or appurtenance.
2. §40.5.B (19.h). Be sure to include language in the narrative that the applicant has complied.
3. §40.5.B (20.a). A plan/statement needs to be included indicating that the applicant will be responsible to remove equipment if and when the applicant leaves the tower.
4. §40.5.b (20.b). Items i – iv are already shown on the plan.
5. §40.5.B (22). Be sure that all plans and statements requiring certification by an appropriate licensed

professional are so certified.

6. All components, particularly tubing, proposed by T-Mobile shall be capped so as to eliminate noise potential.
7. An engineer signed and stamped structural analysis from T-Mobile shall be completed to confirm the structural analysis presented as part of the Sprint Spectrum Special Permit and further that the proposed changes by T-Mobile will be also be structurally sound.

Mr. Bostwick thanked the Board for their time and he will make application for the Special Permit as soon as he can based on the consultation this evening.

Meeting minutes:

On a motion for Mr. Sollog, seconded by Mr. Worthington, the Board approved the February 3, 2015 minutes as corrected (minor typos). 6-0-0.

Adjourn at 7:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Charleen L. Greenhalgh
ATA/Planner