

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :  
 :  
 :  
 APPLICATION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP : DOCKET NO. 347  
 D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A :  
 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :  
 COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR :  
 THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE :  
 AND OPERATION OF A WIRELESS :  
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT :  
 THE GAYLORDSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE :  
 DEPARTMENT, NEW MILFORD, :  
 CONNECTICUT : SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO C.G.S. § 16-50l(e)

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50l(e), attached are materials which Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) is required to provide to the Siting Council (“Council”) in connection with its proposed wireless telecommunications facility on property owned by the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department, 700 Kent Road/15 South Kent Road, New Milford, Connecticut (the “New Milford NW Facility”). The New Milford NW Facility is within 2,500 feet of the Sherman town-line. Local input efforts required by § 16-50l(e) of the General Statutes were commenced in both New Milford and Sherman, Connecticut. The attached materials include:

- A. All materials provided to the Towns of New Milford and Sherman;
- B. A summary of the consultations with the Towns of New Milford and Sherman, including any recommendations on the proposed telecommunications facility; and

C. Copies of all correspondence between the Cellco and the Towns of New Milford and Sherman.

A. Materials Provided to the Towns of New Milford and Sherman

A Technical Report dated November 13, 2006 was prepared by Cellco and submitted to the New Milford Town Attorney as designee for Mayor Patricia Murphy and the First Selectman for the Town of Sherman, Andrea O'Connor. This information includes a description of the proposed wireless facility, the need for such facility and the description of other sites considered, but found to be unacceptable. Copies of the technical information were submitted to the Council as a Bulk File Exhibit on September 14, 2007.

B. Summary of Municipal Consultations

1. On November 13, 2006, Cellco representatives met with the New Milford Town Attorney, D. Randall DiBella as designee for Mayor Patricia Murphy to commence the municipal consultation process for the New Milford NW Facility. On the same day, copies of the Technical Report were sent to the First Selectman of the Town of Sherman. (See Attachment 1).

2. On January 9, 2007 Cellco appeared before the New Milford Zoning Commission to discuss the New Milford NW tower proposal. The meeting was attended by members of the public including residents of the Gaylordsville area and members of the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department.

C. Copies of all correspondence between the Cellco and the Towns of New Milford and Sherman

In addition to the Cellco Technical Report, correspondence generated or received regarding the proposed New Milford Northwest Facility includes:

1. A letter dated November 14, 2007 regarding Cellco's willingness to meet with the New Milford Zoning Commission to discuss the proposed tower site.  
(Attachment 2).
2. A letter with attachments dated January 24, 2007 from Eleanor Florio, Chairperson of the New Milford Zoning Commission. (Attachment 3).
3. A letter dated August 27, 2007 to Mayor Murphy of the Town of New Milford informing the Town that Cellco was proceeding with the filing of its application in September 2007. (Attachment 4).

Respectfully submitted,  
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a  
VERIZON WIRELESS

By   
Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3597  
Its Attorneys

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2007, a copy of the foregoing was mailed, postage prepaid, to the following parties and intervenors:

**New Milford Zoning Commission**  
c/o D. Randall DiBella, Esq.  
Cramer & Anderson LLP  
51 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

  
Kenneth C. Baldwin

280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3597  
Main (860) 275-8200  
Fax (860) 275-8299  
kbaldwin@rc.com  
Direct (860) 275-8345

November 13, 2006

*Via Hand Delivery*

Andrea O'Connor  
First Selectman  
Mallory Town Hall  
9 Route 39 North  
P.O. Box 39  
Sherman, CT 06784

Re: **Proposed Verizon Wireless Tower Site in the Town of New Milford,  
Connecticut**

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

I'm sorry that our schedule conflicts could not be resolved in time for us to meet with you this afternoon. Attached are the materials that describe for you the Verizon Wireless telecommunications facility proposal at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department in New Milford. As discussed in my letter to Mayor Patricia Murphy, these materials are transmitted to you because the proposed tower site is located within 2,500 feet of the New Milford/Sherman town boundary.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to meet and discuss the Verizon Wireless proposal.



Law Offices

BOSTON

HARTFORD

NEW LONDON

STAMFORD

WHITE PLAINS

NEW YORK CITY

SARASOTA

[www.rc.com](http://www.rc.com)

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Baldwin

KCB/kmd

Attachments

Copy to:

Sandy M. Carter

280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3597  
Main (860) 275-8200  
Fax (860) 275-8299  
kbaldwin@rc.com  
Direct (860) 275-8345

November 14, 2006

Kathy Castagnetta  
Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Town of New Milford  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

**Re: Submission of Technical Information Concerning Proposal to Construct a  
Wireless Telecommunications Tower at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire  
Department Property in the Town of New Milford, Connecticut**

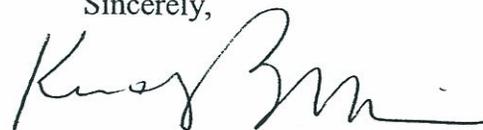
Dear Ms. Castagnetta:

This firm represents Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Cellco"). Cellco intends to file an application with the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") to construct a wireless telecommunications facility ("Facility") at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department located at 700 Kent Road in New Milford. Yesterday, I met with the Town Attorney, D. Randall DiBella, to review certain technical information regarding the proposed Facility. This meeting officially commenced the Connecticut Siting Council's 60 day local input and review process.

Attorney DiBella mentioned, following his brief conversation with you, that the New Milford Planning and Zoning Commission may wish to learn more about the proposed Facility. For that reason I am enclosing five additional copies of the technical information that I left with Attorney DiBella yesterday.

I look forward to working with you and the New Milford Planning and Zoning Commission on this matter. If the Commission would like to learn more about this proposal please contact me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,



Kenneth C. Baldwin

Enclosures

Copy to:

D. Randall DiBella, Esq.  
Sandy M. Carter



Law Offices

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# TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

Town Hall  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, Connecticut 06776  
Telephone (860) 355-6095 • Fax (860) 210-2664

Office of the Zoning Commission

January 24, 2007

Ms. Sandy Carter, Regulatory Manager  
Verizon Wireless  
99 East River Drive  
East Hartford, CT 06108

Dear Ms. Carter:

In November of 2006 Cellco Partnership, D/B/A Verizon Wireless submitted a notice of intent to the Town of New Milford with regard to construction of a new wireless telecommunications facility at the Gaylordsville Fire Department in Gaylordsville, CT. Gaylordsville is part of the Town of New Milford. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Zoning Commission of the Town of New Milford held a Public Informational Hearing with regard to this proposal. This package contains the public hearing record, as well as a summary of the Commission comments, concerns and recommendations with regard to this proposal.

## **Summary of commission concerns, comments, recommendations:**

1. After review of oral and written testimony from the people who live and own property within 200' of the proposed cell tower the commission has serious concerns that this tower will negatively impact the value of these surrounding properties and the quality of life of these residents.
2. Testimony from a representative of the Trust for Historic Preservation indicated this proposal will negatively impact the historic character of the Village of Gaylordsville.
3. Various members of the public stated that cell phone coverage in the Gaylordsville area is adequate, and that this tower would not be serving a public need.
4. No representative from the Gaylordsville Fire Department or other New Milford or Gaylordsville emergency services branch provided testimony to support this new tower.
5. The commission has concerns with regard to RF interference with emergency service communications. This must be addressed by the tower operator.
6. The site plan and application provided contained numerous errors and lacked a tremendous amount of information, which, if the applicant had spent minimal time on, could have been correct and more accurate.

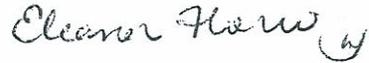
7. The biggest concern of the commission is that no proof, whatsoever, was presented to support locating this tower at the proposed location.
  - A. No proposed coverage maps were provided for alternate locations.
  - B. There are several high structures in the area that were not identified or discussed for location of an antenna.
  - C. A "plot" or "propagation" map was prepared by the Connecticut Siting Council for the Town of New Milford on October 31, 2000. The Siting Council Map indicates that co-location of antennas on tall structures in the CL&P right of way will dramatically improve coverage in the Route 7 corridor. Therefore, why is it necessary to construct a new tower if co-location on existing high structures can provide adequate coverage?
  - D. No documentation has been provided that the tower height is the minimum required to function satisfactorily. The RF engineer stated the tower must be at least 120' in height to account for future growth in tree height. A licensed arborist at the informational hearing testified that the trees in that area had reached their peak height, and most were in decline.
8. There is a stanchion approximately ¼ mile north of the proposed tower site in the CL&P right of way which supports the high power lines located at coordinates 41°39'03.39"N, 73°29'05.91"W at elevation 320 ft. The stanchion is 50' in height. The elevation of the ground level at the stanchion is approximately 80' higher than the elevation of the proposed tower location. When 50' is added to this location, an antenna on this stanchion would be higher than the antenna height of the proposed tower. This would seem a perfect location for the Verizon antenna. Can a proposed coverage map for this location be generated?
9. If this proposal is submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council, the commission plans to file for Intervenor status.
10. The commission believes that the Connecticut Siting Council has done an admirable job in the Town of New Milford in approving antennas and towers in locations where they will have the least visual impact. The commission believes this practice must continue, especially in the historic and scenic Housatonic River Valley.

**Conclusion:**

The Commission believes the proposed cell tower location to be very inappropriate. This location is adjacent to a residential neighborhood and across a local street from historic homes. The neighboring property owners are very distressed over the potential loss in value of their largest investment, their homes, as well as the negative impact such a tower will have on their quality of life and enjoyment of their homes. It appears alternative sites were not adequately investigated, including very obvious locations which would potentially provide superior coverage with very limited impact on existing uses. The commission is very disappointed in this application. The commission has received tower proposals from Sprint Spectrum in 2002 and 2003. These proposals were well thought out and contained substantial information regarding review of alternate locations. The commission gave favorable comments to both these proposed towers, with a limited

number of recommendations. The commission would like the Siting Council to understand that it believes this proposal has been poorly presented and that Verizon has not proved this tower is the best option for cell phone service in the Route 7 corridor in the Gaylordsville area.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor Florio".

Eleanor Florio

Chairperson, New Milford Zoning Commission

Copy: Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman Connecticut Siting Council  
S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director Connecticut Siting Council

**List of Enclosed Exhibits:**

1. Minutes of January 9, 2007 zoning commission meeting.
2. Staff Report from Kathy Castagnetta, ZEO dated December 26, 2006.
3. Staff Report from James Ferlow, WEO dated January 8, 2007.
4. Public Hearing sign in sheet.
5. Letter from Michael Covert, dated January 3, 2007.
6. Letter from Michael Covert, dated January 12, 2007.
7. Petition opposing the proposed cell tower location with 47 signatures.
8. Letter from Ted Berson.
9. Letter to the Gaylordsville Fire Dept.
10. Letter from Ellen Berson.
11. Several newspaper articles submitted by Ellen Berson.
12. Letter from Henry Marino
13. Four photos of historic buildings in the vicinity of the proposed cell tower location.

**NEW MILFORD ZONING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2007**

Present: Eleanor Florio, Chairwoman  
Janice Vance, Vice Chairwoman  
William Taylor, Secretary  
Stephen Paduano, Member  
Sharon Ward, Member  
Donald Marsh, Alternate  
James Walker, Alternate  
Kathy Castagnetta, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Absent: Walter Rogg, Alternate

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Florio brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Loretta Brickley Conference Room of Town Hall. The meeting was recessed to the E. Paul Martin Room of Town Hall and reconvened at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Rogg was absent.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation at this time.

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. Canterbury School, special permit and site plan applications to allow a parking lot accessory to the Canterbury School, on property located at 101 Aspetuck Ave. in the R-40 Zone. Close by: January 9, 2007**

This item was kept open to receive a response from the applicant regarding the Town Engineer's concerns, a revised map was received, and it was kept open to allow Mrs. Weller, a neighbor, to speak.

Mr. Scott Kennel of 57 Brandywine Road in New Jersey identified himself as Mrs. Weller's son and was speaking on her behalf. He stated he has looked at the plans and noted that the key issue is establishing the property line and the 60 foot buffer that is required. There is no buffer on the plans and as part of the buffer there should be a bermed area to provide visual and noise screening. He also noted that only 10% of the parking lot is landscaped, whereas it must be 25% landscaped.

It was noted that Mrs. Castagnetta would go through the various concerns with the Town Engineer.

- B. **E&R Commercial, Inc., request for a zone change from B-1, Restricted Business Zone to MR, Multiple Residence District, on property located at 45 Fort Hill Road, Lots 13, 14, and 15 of Map 28.3. Close by: January 23, 2007 with a 35 day extension.**
- C. **E&R Commercial, Inc., special permit and site plan applications under section 035-010 to allow four proposed multi-family buildings each with ten units, on property located at 45 Fort Hill Road, Lots 13, 14, 15 of Map 28.3. Close by January 23, 2007 with a 35 day extension.**

These two agenda items were taken together. Mr. Paul Szymanski, engineer for the applicant, was present for the discussion. He noted that he received the draft report from the geotechnical engineer on this day. A report from Milone and McBroom shows some concerns and suggestions. The geotechnical engineer suggested looking into sealed vaults for discharge of groundwater. Revised plans should be submitted at the end of the week. They should be ready for the next meeting.

Mrs. Castagnetta stated she received a clarification letter from Mr. Wong dated January 5, 2007. Mr. Marsh asked for more input in regards to soils.

This public hearing was kept open.

- D. **Supreme Meditation Inc. special permit and site plan applications to allow a meditation school under Section 025-100, on property located at 21 Sega Drive, Map 14.3, Lot 60 in the B-2 zone.**

Mr. Taylor read the legal notice. A report was received from the Wetlands Enforcement Officer dated January 7, 2007 and from the Zoning Enforcement Officer dated December 29, 2006.

*Mr. Paduano moved to waive the traffic study, topographic contours, drainage, interior layout, and engineered site plan for Supreme Meditation Inc. special permit and site plan applications to allow a meditation school under Section 025-100, on property located at 21 Sega Drive, Map 14.3, Lot 60 in the B-2 zone. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

Mrs. Castagnetta stated that this is a quiet activity and had no problems at this time. There will be no exterior changes proposed.

Attorney Baldwin stated that it is practice that the application does not show a lot of detail until it submits an application to the Siting Council. At this time, Verizon is not ready to file. Verizon would let the Zoning Enforcement Officer know when it plans to file the application with the Siting Council. The applicant proposes a 120 ft. tower on the property behind to the Fire Department at 700 Kent Road or 15 South Kent Road. The Fire Department owns the property its building sits on as well as the adjacent property that the tower would sit on. For the application, Verizon is using the two properties as one. The approval of the tower is under the jurisdiction of the Siting Council. Property owners and municipalities would be notified when Verizon files its application with the Siting Council.

Mr. Doug Roberts of URS stated the subject property is divided into two parcels. The tower location property is 3.066 acres. Access would be located off South Kent Road. The tower would sit in the treed area on the site and be surrounded by the open field. A 200 ft. access way is proposed to reach the tower site which would also include a 50 x 50 sq. ft. lease area. The tower, if it should fall, would fall in a pre-engineered fall, meaning the top 50 ft. of the tower would collapse upon itself. An 8 ft. fence is also proposed around the 12 x 30 sq. ft. equipment shelter. The building would utilize regular power, but have a backup generator within the building powered by diesel fuel. The generator would be started once per week to ensure it would work.

The generator room would be a step down room and would also house a 250 gallon double wall steel tank. He reviewed the plans as proposed. Plantings are proposed around the outside of the building structure. Trees are also proposed. The location was picked to keep the tower as far from the residences as possible. There was some confusion about what zone the property is in and this would be looked into. A chain link fence is proposed around the building site. The area slopes slightly to the south.

When asked about the tank, Mr. Roberts stated the life of the tank (being an internal tank) is at least 50 years as it is not exposed to the elements. He reviewed the property lines on the map for the members.

Attorney Baldwin stated that all abutting landowners and any other information necessary are all submitted to the Siting Council in its packet.

Mr. David Krody of Verizon Wireless is a Radio Frequency Engineer. Verizon currently has locations on Bulls Bridge Road and on Boardman Road. He showed the areas on the map. There is a gap between the two locations showing lack of service or sporadic service. A new tower would fill this gap. A 120 ft. high tower would give 5.3 square miles of coverage and 3.3 sq. miles of coverage along Route 7. If a tower gets lower, the coverage area diminishes. The proposed tower

Mr. Mike Libertine referenced the pictures of tower build out he submitted for review. Some show the full build out of a monopole and some show a monopine. In this instance, he felt the monopine would fit in with the surrounding area very well. He also reviewed the view shed map to show what areas would have a view of the tower. This is done with overlays to obtain a terrain model. He noted that this is done first and then a balloon is floated to fine tune it. The balloon float is done as part of the Siting Council process. During the float, the team would drive the local roads and take photos to show where the tower can be seen from.

Attorney Baldwin again noted that Verizon is not ready to file with the Siting Council at this time, but noted that it does have standards to adhere to and there will be a public hearing held on this item by the Siting Council. The Council will then deliberate. From the time of filing to decision, the Council has 6 months to make a decision with extensions available if needed.

He noted the plan does not satisfy the setback for the tower heights but does satisfy the 120 ft. fall radius. CL&P poles would have to be extended and make bigger round to be able to be used. He noted towers are hard to locate in this area of the State due to the topography. The company has looked at other locations such as the Methodist Church, River Oaks Golf Club, Long Mountain Silo, and the Gaylordsville Church. However, none of the structures were tall enough.

Verizon can make taller towers than 120 ft., but it must justify to the Siting Council why it must have it. Soils reports have been completed and there are no wetlands on the site. NEPA analyses are currently being done. Verizon have received a report from the FAA stating there will not be any lighting requirements. An RF emissions calculation was submitted stating that the tower would operate below FCC standards. The plans will be sealed prior to filing. A facilities maintenance plan would include a monthly visit to the site. Otherwise, the site would be remotely monitored on a daily basis.

Mr. Paduano noted the cell tower is located at a low area along the river. He was told that if the tower was located higher, it would not get coverage to the lower lying areas. There are also lease considerations to take into account. It was noted that they not exceed height of the tower is 120 ft.

Mrs. Castagnetta asked if the electrical stanchions were considered. Mr. Libertine stated he could not say but noted that the CL&P stanchions are at least a ¼ mile away to the east and would not help in closing the gap as noted on the maps. They could use CL&P if possible. New towers are always the last option as the Siting Council likes to utilize existing facilities.

When asked about shorter poles in more locations, Mr. Krody stated it could be done but they would need to build more structures. He stated there is a lot to consider so a town is not inundated with towers.

behalf of the Trust for Historic Preservation in that this would be bad for such a historic area of town and the integrity of this area would be compromised.

**Mr. Warren Braren** of 17 Indian Trail Road and speaking on behalf of the Long Mountain Resident's Association stated that he uses his cell phone in that area all the time with no problem. Others also use their cell phones without issue. He questioned the need for this tower if there is no problem with cell phone coverage in the area. He felt it would have a large impact on Gaylordsville.

**Ms. Allison Hamilton** of 6 South Kent Road felt there was no need for the tower and thought it would be bad for the area.

Attorney Baldwin stated there are RF standards that must be met in accordance to FCC standards and that in the worst case scenario, emissions from cell towers are very low. If emissions come close or exceed those standards, the facility cannot be operated.

The team will again check into power lines and see if any can be utilized. Photo simulations will be sent to the Siting Council. He noted that Verizon has no coverage in this area, but other companies do. This is the reason behind the proposal. The Fire Department is a good fit because they can share the pole and get enhance their communications needs. He noted that the Siting Council mandates that towers be shared.

*Mrs. Florio moved to close the public hearing for Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, public informational hearing to construct a wireless telecommunications facility including a telecommunications tower 120' in height at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department located at 700 Kent Road, Gaylordsville. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.*

Mrs. Florio expressed her surprise that the Fire Department was not heard from this evening, but asked that they forward any comments on to the Siting Council.

**F. Basketshop Properties Family Limited Partnership, special permit and site plan applications under chapters 95, 180 and 40 to allow construction of a 4,250 square foot, two story retail building located within the Housatonic River District and the B-1 zone, on property located at 703 Kent Road.**

Mr. Taylor read the legal notice. Mrs. Castagnetta referenced her report dated December 29, 2006, revised January 3, 2007. She noted her concerns have been addressed and she is waiting to hear from the Town Engineer and the Housatonic River Commission.

G. Philip and Arlene Quaranta, special permit and site plan applications under Section 065-020(2) (8) to allow processing and storage of wood materials, on property located at 87 Boardman Road, Map 41, Lot 44 in the Industrial Zone.

Mr. Taylor read the legal notice. Mrs. Castagnetta referred to her report dated January 4, 2007 and the Wetlands Enforcement Officer dated January 8, 2007.

Mr. Paul Szymanski was present for the application. He showed the areas on the map where the mulch machine would be located and materials stockpiled. Mr. Quaranta noted that the machine would be the size of a medium wood chipper and the units have been upgraded so they are not nearly as loud as they used to be.

The unit would run the same as the quarry hours and the neighbors have no problems at this time. The Meads, the closest neighbors, also have no problems.

Mrs. Castagnetta noted her concerns have been addressed. It was noted that the wood materials processing would not be a daily thing. Debris would be accumulated and when there was a sufficient pile, the machine would be run.

Mr. Quaranta has even researched the possibility of endangered species and plants with the DEP.

*Mrs. Vance moved to waive the traffic study, topographic contours, drainage, A-2 survey, and interior layout for Philip and Arlene Quaranta, special permit and site plan applications under Section 065-020(2) (8) to allow processing and storage of wood materials, on property located at 87 Boardman Road, Map 41, Lot 44 in the Industrial Zone. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paduano and carried unanimously.*

*Mrs. Florio moved to close the public hearing for Philip and Arlene Quaranta, special permit and site plan applications under Section 065-020(2) (8) to allow processing and storage of wood materials, on property located at 87 Boardman Road, Map 41, Lot 44 in the Industrial Zone. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.*

to keep the same drainage pattern. A timber guide rail is proposed along the paved area so as to avoid encroachment onto the grassed area. A rip rap trench is also proposed along the site to promote sheet flow which would discharge into a stormwater quality pond to provide for renovation of the stormwater prior to its discharge into the wooded wetland. He utilized the 2004 Stormwater Quality Manual to do this.

Erosion controls are proposed around the site and a detailed limit of disturbance line is proposed to avoid unnecessary encroachment during construction. He also proposes that half of the existing lawn area to revert back to natural wetlands over time. He is proposing a series of small plants and trees. A number of plantings are also proposed at the front of the site including the preservation of as many of the existing trees on the site as possible and the trimming of existing bushes and additional plantings.

In regards to emergency egress from the car lane, he proposes grass pavers to the street with a chain. This would eliminate further impervious surface. Seven parking spaces are proposed with one of them being a handicap space. A dumpster area is proposed at the rear of the property with screening.

An illumination plan was submitted to demonstrate there would be no light pollution coming from the site. The poles are proposed at 14 ft. Traffic counts would be 35 vehicles per hour and there is the opportunity for the site to service up to 120 cars per hour.

There is the potential of putting an apartment on the second floor, but not at this point. That use would require a public hearing and there are two parking spots for that potential use. Four cars can park in front of the detailing bay.

The building height, with the cupola, is 35 ft. Members felt the second floor windows were too small and not the right shape. They asked that they be made bigger and not rounded on the top of the window. Members also asked for architectural shingles on the roof.

Trees and shrubs are proposed around the site for landscaping. Members reviewed the lighting plan. Mr. Walker asked that the applicant look at the number of lumens per net acre. This entails taking the number of lumens from the bulbs and the number of lamps that they will have and dividing it by the net acres. The signage should be tastefully done and be in keeping with sign regulations and the neighborhood.

Mr. Szymanski stated he is waiting to hear from the DOT and the Inland Wetlands Commission. The existing trees will be saved. Less than 700 cubic yards of excavation is proposed. This site would go from a residential to business use in keeping with the zone.

*Mrs. Florio moved to waive the traffic study and interior layout for Alan Weiner, site plan application to allow a use change to warehouse, storage and assembly in unit B-5, 458 Danbury Road in the Industrial Commercial Zone. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Trefz Corporation, site plan application to allow vestibule improvements, relocation of handicapped parking spaces, and patio modifications, on property located at 48 Danbury Road in the B-2 zone. Decision by January 9, 2007.**

Mrs. Castagnetta noted in her report that the State must designate if the northern driveway should be closed. However, the Zoning Commission can strongly suggest to the applicant that it consider such an action.

She also noted that in the Route 7 Access Management Plan, the committee is looking to eliminate curb cuts within 150 ft. of any intersection. She does not know if the State will push this.

Mr. Chris Boyce was present for the application. At this time the applicant is only coming in for vestibule improvements. He also noted that the CTDOT has never notified them that the driveway is a concern, even with the road improvements.

B. **Town of New Milford, Department of Public Works, site plan application to allow improvements to the Recycling Center Facility on property located at 18 Young's Field Road in the Government Service District. Decision by January 9, 2007.**

Mrs. Castagnetta stated that she has received a request for a 65 day extension. The Department of Public Works is working on getting a survey as there is a title issue.

*Mrs. Florio moved to grant a 65 day extension to March 13, 2007 for the Town of New Milford, Department of Public Works, site plan application to allow improvements to the Recycling Center Facility on property located at 18 Young's Field Road in the Government Service District. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

*at 367 Litchfield Road. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

**Vincent Porzio, site plan application per section 040-020(G) to allow site plan approval of a car wash on property located at 84 Park Lane, Map 50.1, Lot 48 in the B-1 zone. Decision by February 13, 2007.**

This item is waiting for Inland Wetlands Commission approval.

**Tri-State Choppers, LLC Site Plan application under section 045-020 to allow a motorcycle repair business within Unit #30, 44 Old State Road, Map 14.2, Lot 65/30 in the B-2 zone.**

*Mrs. Florio moved to approve site plan application under Section 045-020 to allow a motorcycle repair business within Unit #30, 44 Old State Road. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

**Tri-State Choppers, LLC, 295-A Danbury Road, Application for Automobile Dealer's or Repairer's License under Section 14-54 of the Connecticut General Statutes to certify approval of the proposed location for a General Repairer's License.**

*Mrs. Florio moved to approve Tri-State Choppers, LLC, 295-A Danbury Road, Application for Automobile Dealer's or Repairer's License under Section 14-54 of the Connecticut General Statutes to certify approval of the proposed location for a General Repairer's License. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

**Alan Weiner, site plan application to allow a use change to warehouse with showroom in unit B-7, 458 Danbury Road in the Industrial Commercial Zone.**

*Mrs. Florio moved to approve Alan Weiner, site plan application to allow a use change to warehouse with showroom in unit B-7, 458 Danbury Road in the Industrial Commercial Zone. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

2. Proposed amendment to the New Milford Zoning Regulations to delete Chapter 155, Separation Distances, as proposed by the New Milford Zoning Commission. Decision by: N/A Commission initiated.

*Mrs. Florio moved to approve Proposed amendment to the New Milford Zoning Regulations to delete Chapter 155, Separation Distances, as proposed by the New Milford Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paduano and FAILED unanimously.*

3. Proposed amendments to the New Milford Zoning Regulations, Chapter 55, B-4 Highly Restrictive Business Zone, to restate the purpose and more clearly outline the permitted uses and standards. Decision by: N/A Commission initiated.

*Mrs. Florio moved to approve Proposed amendments to the New Milford Zoning Regulations, Chapter 55, B-4 Highly Restrictive Business Zone, to restate the purpose and more clearly outline the permitted uses and standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and FAILED unanimously.*

4. The Canterbury School, special permit and site plan applications to allow construction of a new Natatorium Building in an R-40 zone as per Section 025-060, Special Permit, on property located at Aspetuck Avenue, Map 35.4, Lot 37 in the R-40 zone. Decision by February 13, 2007.
5. Canterbury School, special permit and site plan applications to allow excavation of earth materials in conjunction with construction of a new Natatorium Building in an R-40 zone as per Chapter 140, on property located at Aspetuck Avenue, Map 35.4, Lot 37 in the R-40 zone. Decision by February 13, 2007.

Items four and five were taken together.

*Mrs. Florio moved to adopt the resolution of approval for The Canterbury School, special permit and site plan applications to allow construction of a new Natatorium Building in an R-40 zone as per Section 025-060, Special Permit, on property located at Aspetuck Avenue, Map 35.4, Lot 37 in the R-40 zone and Canterbury School, special permit and site plan applications to allow*

discretion and it could justify approving it in that way. The spaces stick out into the town right of way about 5-6 ft. As members could not agree on a solution, they decided to look at the site again and think on the issue more.

8. **Richard H. Cook, special permit and site plan applications to allow a use change from residential to meeting hall for Bible Baptist Church, on property located at 14 Riverview Court in the R-40 zone. Decision by February 13, 2007.**

*Mrs. Florio moved to adopt the resolution of approval for Richard H. Cook, special permit and site plan applications to allow a use change from residential to meeting hall for Bible Baptist Church, on property located at 14 Riverview Court in the R-40 zone. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.*

Mr. Walker again described how to determine the number of lumens per net acre. The number of lumens is on the bulb. This is multiplied by the number of light units and then divided by the number of acres on the site. Members agreed but the regulations would have to reflect it as well.

9. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- A. **December 6, 2006 Special Meeting**

*Mrs. Vance moved to accept the December 6, 2006 special meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Florio and carried unanimously.*

- B. **December 12, 2006 Meeting**

*Mrs. Florio moved to accept the December 12, 2006 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vance and carried unanimously.*

10. **BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. **Bill: Cramer & Anderson, dated 12/01/06, regarding miscellaneous professional services, \$564.83**

- B. **Bill: Cramer & Anderson, dated 12/01/06, regarding Tripp (26 South Main Street) v. Zoning Commission, \$247.50**

# **Staff Comments and Documentation**



# TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

Town Hall  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, Connecticut 06776  
Telephone (860) 355-6095 • Fax (860) 210-2664

Office of the Zoning Commission

MEMO TO: New Milford Zoning Commissioners  
FROM: Kathy Castagnetta, Zoning Enforcement Officer  
DATE: December 26, 2006  
SUBJECT: Telecommunications Facility, Gaylordsville Fire Dept.

Applicant: Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless  
Property Owner: Gaylordsville Fire Dept.  
Property Address: 700 Kent Road (should be identified as 15 South Kent Road)  
Map 75, Lot 32A/1  
Zone: B-1  
Lot Area: 3.18 acres

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless has submitted a letter to the Zoning Office indicating their intent to file an application with the Connecticut Siting Council to construct a wireless telecommunications facility at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department located at 700 Kent Road, Gaylordsville.

I have reviewed the following documents:

1. Letter from Kenneth Baldwin of Robinson and Cole, dated November 14, 2006.
2. Letter from Kenneth Baldwin of Robinson and Cole, dated November 13, 2006.
3. Map depicting RF Coverage of Adjacent Sites.
4. Map depicting RF Coverage with proposed facility.
5. Partial Site Plan, prepared by URS Corporation, dated 9-8-06.
6. Compound Plan and Tower Elevation, prepared by URS Corporation, dated 9-8-06.
7. General Power Density Chart.
8. Visual Resource Evaluation Report, prepared by VHB, dated September, 2006.
9. Photolog Documentation, prepared by VHB.
10. Photographic Documentation and Simulation, Views 1 through 7, Monopole, prepared by VHB, Inc.

11. Viewshed Map, prepared by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Map compiled August, 2006.
12. Assessor's field cards.
13. Filed May 2757, Approved Subdivision Map, approved 11-7-02, prepared by C. James Osborne, Jr., LS, dated January 9, 2002.

When reviewing the Partial Site Plan and Submission Proposal, some inaccuracies must be pointed out to avoid confusion, as follows:

- A. What is noted as "Kent Road" on the partial site plan is really South Kent Road. Kent Road is actually to the west of the site.
- B. The subject parcel is actually identified as 15 South Kent Road in Town Records, *not* 700 Kent Road. It is on a parcel adjacent and owned by the Fire Department, but on a vacant separate parcel.
- C. The parcel area is 3.18 acres, not 1.55 acres.
- D. The parcel is located in the B-1 zone, not the B-2 zone.
- E. The site will be accessed from South Kent Road, not Kent Road.
- F. The "partial site plan" indicates a scale of 1"=20'. It has been reduced in size, so it is difficult to scale.

#### **The Proposal:**

The proposal calls for construction of a 120 foot tall telecommunications tower with 12 panel-type antennas at the top of the tower. Equipment associated with the tower will be located in a 12' x 30' shelter near the base of the tower. The tower and shelter will be located in a 100' x 100' leased compound area. Access to the facility would be over South Kent Road via a 12' wide gravel driveway. The tower will be designed to accommodate additional carriers. A 50' x 50' compound area will be fenced in.

#### **Role of the Zoning Commission:**

Municipal jurisdiction over proposed telecommunications facilities is pre-empted by the provisions of the Public Utilities Environmental Standards Act, CGS§16-50g through 50p. This act gives exclusive jurisdiction over the location, type and modification of telecommunications towers to the Connecticut Siting Council. These type of facilities are exempt from local land use regulations, however, municipal officials are entitled to receive technical information regarding the proposal. The applicant must provide a summary of the Town's comments and recommendations to the Siting Council with their application to the Council. If the town has significant concerns, it can choose to become a party in the Siting Council's proceedings.

#### **Compliance with Zoning Regulations:**

Although it has been concluded that local land use regulations are pre-empted, the Commission has a very comprehensive zoning regulation regarding telecommunications

facilities, which is a good outline for what should be reviewed. Therefore, a review for compliance with Chapter 150 is a worthwhile exercise for the commission.

#### Section 150-040 General Provisions

- The tower is setback at least 30' from the side and 40' from the front and rear property lines, in compliance with the setbacks for the B-1 zone.
- The tower will hold multiple antennas.
- The regulations require that a tower be setback from all property lines a distance equal to 1.5 times the tower height. It appears the tower is only setback 120' to the Cromwell Family property line to the west, 30' to the Fire Department property line, and about 200' to the South Kent Road property line and at least 200' to the north property line. Again, it was difficult to scale the site plan as it had been significantly reduced to no particular scale. The tower is proposed to be 120' in height, so to meet this standard of the regulation it should be setback at least 200' to all property lines. It appears the house on the Cromwell property will be setback at least 200' from the base of the proposed tower, but again, it is hard to accurately determine this based upon the site plans provided.

#### Section 150-050 Application Requirements

- The area serviced by the proposed facility will be between a tower in Kent on Bulls Bridge Road, and the Boardman tower on the former ASI property. What I have identified as exhibit #4 depicts a coverage map indicating the area of coverage.
- #2 of this section states "*All new facility applications shall demonstrate that the service proposed cannot be provided by adding the proposed antenna and all accessory equipment to an existing tower, high voltage electric transmission structure, telephone pole, water tower or other high building or structure.*" A propagation map was prepared by the Connecticut Siting Council on 10-3-00 which indicates that coverage could be provided in this area by placing telecommunications antennas on tall structures currently located in CL&P right of ways with coordinates as follows: Latitude 41-38-22 and Longitude 73-27-51, and a second tall structure located at Latitude 41-37-25 and Longitude 73-26-52. Have these sites been considered for co-location? Has co-location on any other structures been considered? A statement was made with regard to the site selection process and tower sharing, and conclusions made that this is the best site for the proposed tower, however, no backup documentation has been provided to substantiate this assertion.
- Tall structures within ¼ mile of the site have not been identified.
- No documentation has been provided that the tower height is the minimum required to function satisfactorily.
- No analysis of alternative sites has been provided.
- No soils report has been provided to verify design specifications of the tower foundation and anchors for the guy wires.
- Little documentation has been provided assuring the facility meets all requirements of the FCC, FAA or the NEPA. Statements have been provided that there will be no significant environmental impact and that the greatest impact will

be visual. A Visual Resource Evaluation Report and a Viewshed Map have been provided. The tower will be visible from several points. Information regarding RF emissions with regard to FCC compliance is briefly discussed, however, this should be better interpreted. Compliance with NEPA, The National Environmental Policy Act is currently being studied.

- The site plan does not indicate any drainage improvements.
- The boundary of the tower fall zone is indicated and it encompasses the fire department building and crosses a property line.
- The height of the proposed building is not indicated. The regulation states a maximum height of 12'.
- The height of the chain link fence is not indicated. The regulation states a maximum height of 8'.
- The regulations require a balloon test. Is one proposed?
- The regulations require the site plan be prepared by a Connecticut Licensed engineer. No engineer name or seal is noted on the plans.
- No facility maintenance plan has been provided indicating frequency of service, personnel needs, equipment needs, and traffic.

#### **Questions/Concerns:**

1. Will the 3.18 acre parcel be capable of accommodating other uses?
2. The tower fall zone crosses the property line and encompasses the fire department where fire trucks are stored. Can the proposed facility be located further from this structure which houses emergency equipment? It seems that if a tower were ever to fall it would be during a time of intense weather or other emergency when emergency equipment and personnel would be needed. If the tower fell on the building, the emergency services would be incapacitated.
3. What is the height of the shelter?
4. Will generators be utilized to supply power to the facility?
5. What is the height of the proposed fence?
6. Will the tower hold antennas of local emergency services such as fire, police or ambulance?
7. Within 450' of the proposed tower there exist at least 6 single family homes, some of which are historic and some closer than 300'. I believe this facility will have a significant impact on the character of the neighborhood.

#### **Conclusion:**

It appears little time was put into preparation of the site plan as there are several inaccuracies which I have noted. In addition, the information submitted does not conclusively prove that this tower is necessary. The maps provided indicate that cell phone service will be greatly improved in this area, however, based upon the map prepared by the Siting Council, co-location on tall structures in the CL&P right of way will also dramatically improve coverage in the Route 7 corridor. At this time I would

strongly suggest the commission require more data to demonstrate that co-location has been considered and why it is not an option. I would also recommend that data regarding review of alternate sites be presented. I believe location of a tower at this site may have an adverse impact on the character of the Gaylordsville Village, and I believe adequate documentation must be provided to prove that construction of this tower is absolutely necessary and that all alternatives have been considered. Although the Commission does not have jurisdiction it appears, based upon past tower proposals, that the Siting Council does seriously consider the Commission's input.

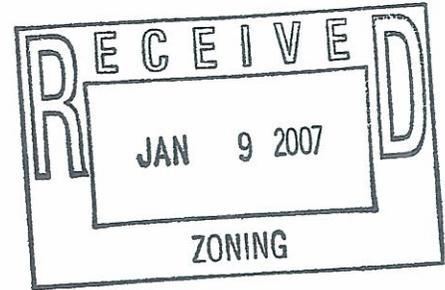
Copy: Mayor Patricia Murphy  
Kenneth C. Baldwin  
File



# TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

Town Hall  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, Connecticut 06776  
Telephone (860) 355-6083 • Fax (860) 210-2664

Office of Inland Wetlands Commission



TO: Zoning Commission

DATE: January 8, 2007

FROM: James Ferlow - Wetlands Enforcement Officer

RE: 700 Kent Road – proposed cell tower

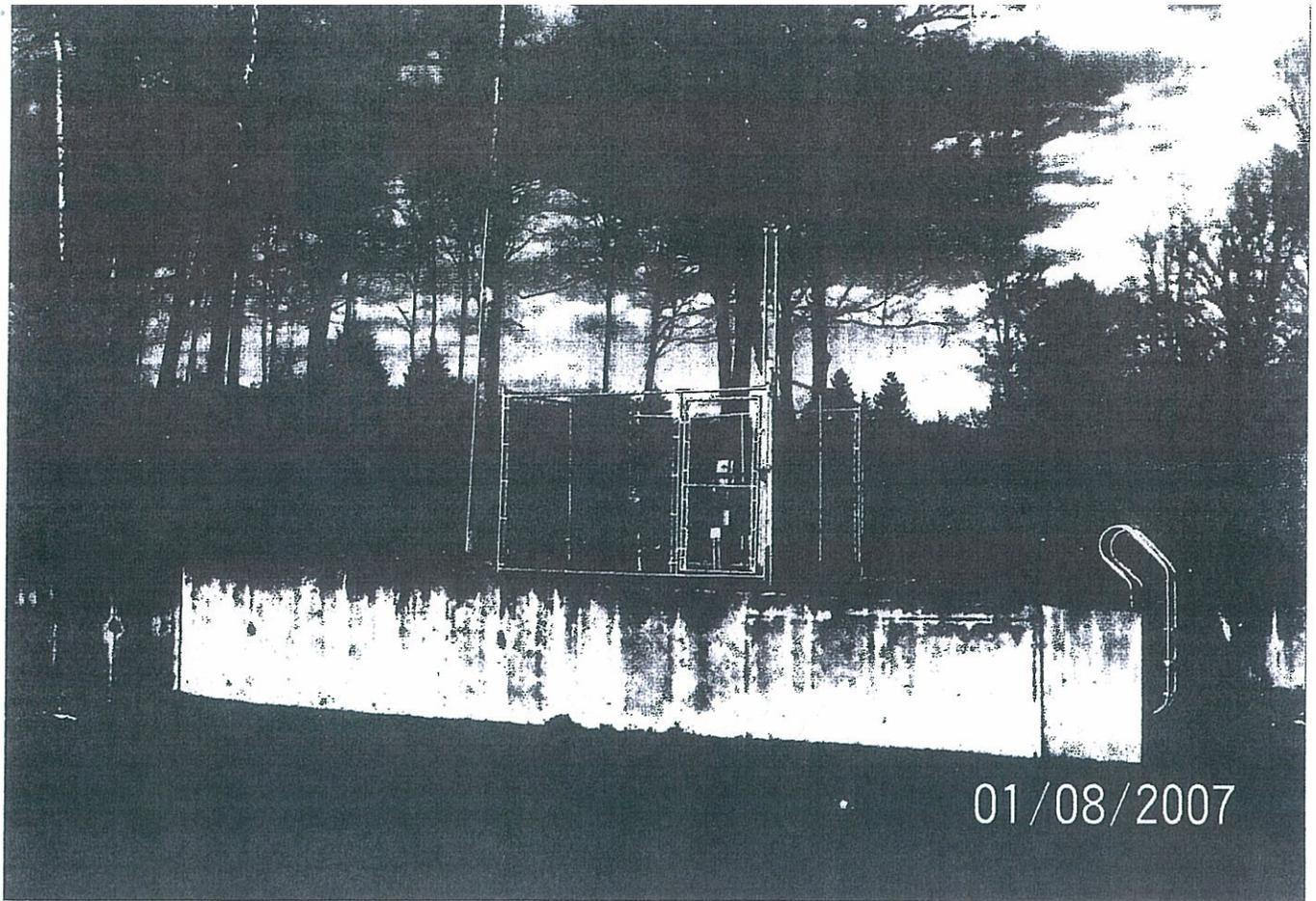
The Wetlands Commission has received a copy of the proposal for the implementation of a cell tower to be located at 700 Kent Road on the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department property. I have reviewed the application and noted that the proposal is not within regulated area of any wetland or watercourse.

The review of the application noted some specific concerns that have not been addressed by the information submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council. I offer the following comments that should be discussed or forwarded to the CT Siting Council

- 1) A portion of the existing firehouse is located within the fall zone of the proposed cell tower. This is not a desirable location for the cell tower. It should be recommended that the tower be relocated to avoid the firehouse in case of emergency.
- 2) The application omits certain critical details including the fire truck fuel storage area and pump housing for the distribution of fuel. These are located on the site plan in the area that is left blank. This location is within the fall zone for the proposed cell tower. It should be recommended that the tower be relocated to avoid the fuel storage and pump area in case of emergency.
- 3) The application also omits the location of the underground water storage facility which is also located within the fall zone of the tower. Again, it is not recommended that emergency facilities be located within the fall zone of the tower.

- 4) The plan identifies South Kent Road as "Kent Road" and does not indicate the name of the other road on which the property fronts - which is Kent Road. This should be corrected to avoid confusion.
- 5) The application has no provisions for the grading of the tower foundation and associated electrical cabinets and storage facilities. This information is necessary to determine the impact that the proposal has on the landscape.
- 6) No soils data has been provided to demonstrate soils stability for the proposed tower foundation. This is a critical aspect to the location, size, and design of the towers foundation.
- 7) No provisions for drainage and runoff are included in the proposal. Given that the fuel storage and parking area is down slope of the proposed facility, these items should be adequately addressed.

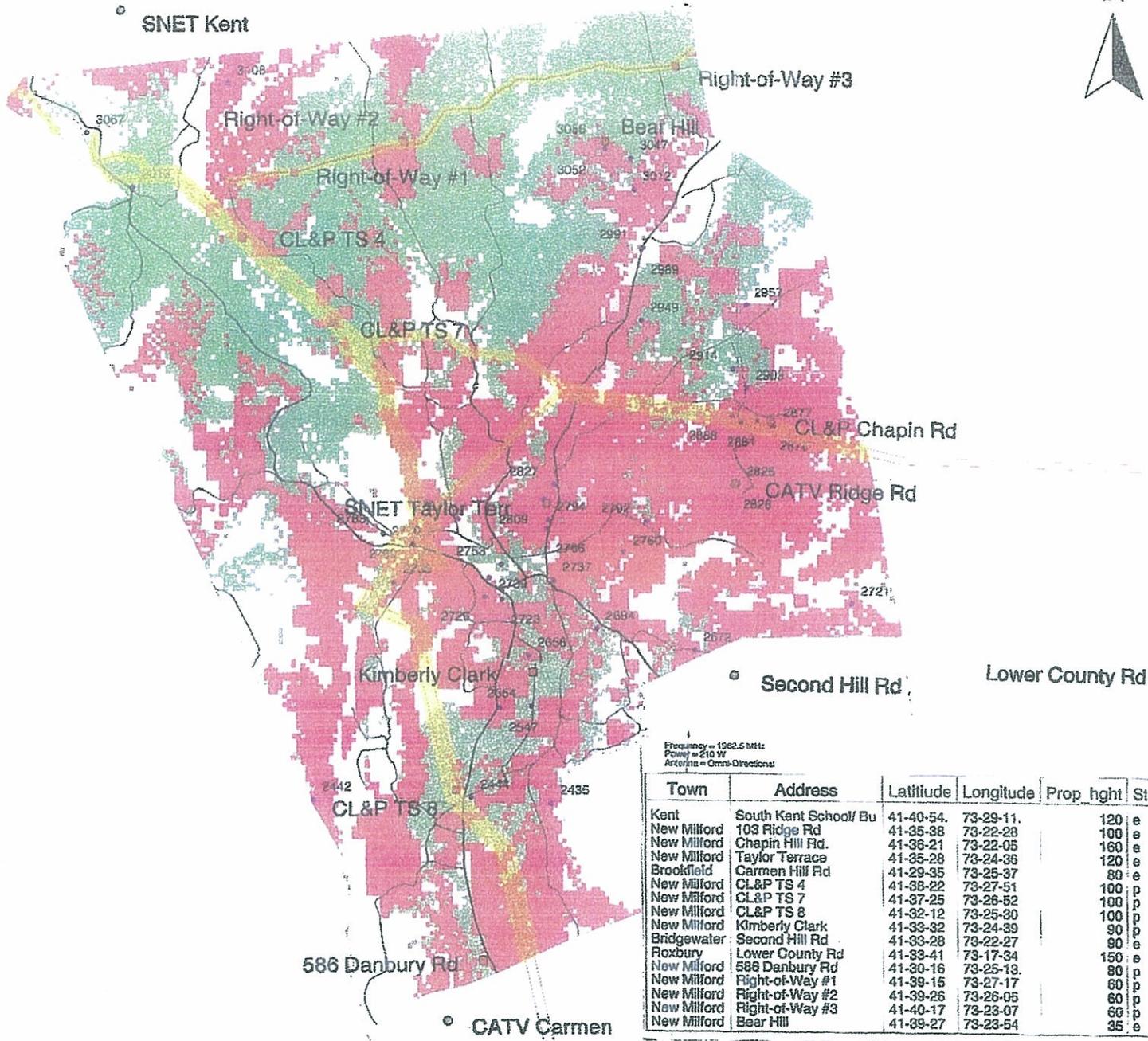
In conclusion the information submitted for review has two specific deficiencies. The first is that the proposal is missing critical information necessary to assess the suitability of the land to house this tower and associated appurtenances. The second is that the application does not recognize existing structures, uses, or conditions that should be reviewed and may require the relocation of the proposed tower.



700 Kent Rd. Gaylordsville Fire Department



# Town of New Milford



Frequency = 192.5 MHz  
 Power = 210 W  
 Antenna = Omni-Directional

Town	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Prop hght	Status
Kent	South Kent School Bu	41-40-54	73-29-11	120	e
New Milford	103 Ridge Rd	41-35-38	73-22-28	100	e
New Milford	Chapin Hill Rd.	41-36-21	73-22-05	160	e
New Milford	Taylor Terrace	41-35-28	73-24-38	120	e
Brookfield	Carmen Hill Rd	41-29-35	73-25-37	80	e
New Milford	CL&P TS 4	41-38-22	73-27-51	100	p
New Milford	CL&P TS 7	41-37-25	73-26-52	100	p
New Milford	CL&P TS 8	41-32-12	73-25-30	100	p
New Milford	Kimberly Clark	41-33-32	73-24-39	90	p
Bridgewater	Second Hill Rd	41-33-28	73-22-27	90	e
Roxbury	Lower County Rd	41-33-41	73-17-34	150	e
New Milford	586 Danbury Rd	41-30-16	73-25-13	80	p
New Milford	Right-of-Way #1	41-39-16	73-27-17	60	p
New Milford	Right-of-Way #2	41-39-26	73-26-05	60	p
New Milford	Right-of-Way #3	41-40-17	73-23-07	60	p
New Milford	Bear Hill	41-39-27	73-23-54	35	e

## LEGEND

- (E) Coverage -82 dBmw
- (P) Coverage -82 dBmw
- FCC Facilities
- Stacks > 50 ft
- Telecommunications Colocation Zone
- HVC Identified Right-of-Way
- Existing Sites
- Fill-In Sites
- Local Roads
- Electric Trans.
- Major Roads

Connecticut Siting Council  
 October 31, 2000



NGC 80 ft higher 50 foot pole

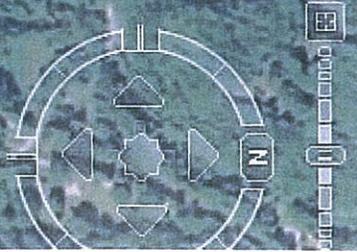


Gaylordsville, CT 06755

© 2007 Europa Technologies

41°39'03.39" N 73°28'05.91" W elev 320 ft

Streaming 100%



© 2006  
Goo  
Eye all

# **Submissions by the Public**

# 700 Kent Road - cell tower



TOWN OF NEW MILFORD  
Zoning Commission  
Town Hall  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

Date: 01/09/07

## Public Hearing Participant Sign-In

<u>For/Against/?</u>	<u>Name - PLEASE PRINT</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Signature</u>
AGAINST	MIKE COVETT	17 south kent rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGAINST	HENRY MARINO	706 Kent Rd.	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGAINST	ELLEN BERSON	12 S. Kent Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGAINST	TED BERSON	12 SOUTH KENT RD.	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGAINST	Aline Flynn	8 South kent Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGAINST	Peter Flynn	4 South Kent Rd.	<i>[Signature]</i>

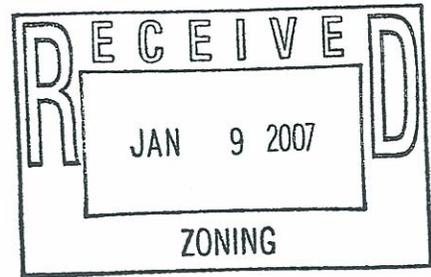
OVER Participant sign-in continued on reverse



RECEIVED

JAN 9 2007

ZONING



January 3, 2007

Gaylordsville Fire Department  
700 Kent Road  
Gaylordsville, CT 06755

**Re: New Milford Planning and Zoning Commissions Information Hearing on the Proposal by Celleo Partnership d/b/a Verizon to construct a Wireless Telecommunications Facility at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department, 700 Kent Road, Gaylordsville, Connecticut, 06755.**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to inform you that the residents in the Gaylordsville community strongly oppose the construction of a 120' cell tower in the center of this historic community. The community plans to attend the New Milford Planning and Zoning meeting on January 9, 2007 at 7:00 pm to present the concerns and displeasure towards this tower in the middle of our town.

How could the fire department propose something like this without speaking to the people in the community? In communities such as ours we rely on support from one another and for our neighbors to do the right thing when it concerns one another. This is inconsiderate of the fire department and the cell tower should be reconsidered going forward.

Towers such as the one that is being proposed are unsightly, undesirable, unhealthy and defaces the property values monetarily and aesthetically for the local residence and the town.

There are many different types of possible exposures from a cell tower and there are no confirmed studies or test results that prove that the health of the people in the immediate vicinity would not be at risk.

The cultural impact with a tower of this size will jeopardize the integrity of the landscape to the historical river valley and one that should be preserved.

The fire department would be the only one to benefit from this tower for Verizon, with an estimated monthly income at or around \$2,500.00 to \$4,500.00 per month. This will deface many of the property values for both residences and the town.

If this is truly a case for better communication signals for the fire department then why put a tower down in the river valley rather than at a higher point of elevation. There are many other sites with in two to three miles that would accommodate a cell tower of this size and not put the burden on the residence and town.

If the fire department is in need of financial help to maintain the building or equipment, we are not opposed to helping with larger donations if needed, helping with fundraisers, we all want to do whatever is necessary to help our fire department and preserve this river valley. We ask that you inform us of what is needed now and in the future.

Has anyone truly considered the safety aspect of this tower? There are a lot of uncertainties that could occur within this plan to build a tower of this size so close to the fire house and the surrounding homes. In the event that the tower should ever fail or fall there are many targets for it to hit (the fire house, property lines, the Gaylordsville country store and across South Kent Road).

I ask you again to be a good neighbor and please reconsider this cell tower.

Sincerely,



Michael Covert  
17 South Kent road  
Gaylordsville, CT 06755  
860-354-3427

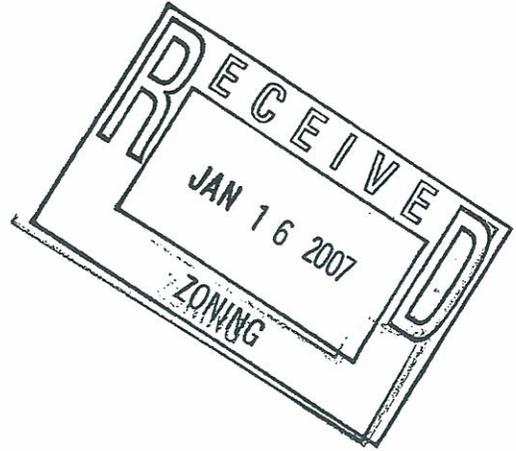
Cc: Pat Murphy  
Mayor of New Milford  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

Susan Tuz  
The News Times  
860-354-2274  
[nhutson@newstimes.com](mailto:nhutson@newstimes.com)

Kathy Castagnetta  
Zoning Enforcement Officer  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

January 12, 2007

Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051



**Re: New Milford Planning and Zoning Commissions Information Hearing on the Proposal by Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon to construct a Wireless Telecommunications Facility at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department, 700 Kent Road, Gaylordsville, Connecticut, 06755.**

To all members of the council:

This letter is to inform you the Connecticut Siting Council that Michael Covert, Henry Marino, Mr. & Mrs. Flynn, Mr. & Mrs. Berstin and many other residents in the Gaylordsville community strongly oppose the construction of a 120' cell tower in the center of this historic community. The community plans to attend all Planning and Zoning hearings regarding this cell tower.

On January 9, 2007 the town of New Milford Planning and Zoning Commissions held a meeting to listen to the proposal from Celco Partnership, a division of Verizon Wireless about erecting a 120' cell tower at the Gaylordsville Fire Department along Route 7 in the center of the Gaylordsville town.

During the meeting several members of Celco Partnership had approximately 2 hours to present a proposal to the planning board, however not all information about the proposed site was presented in detail such as:

**What other sites did Celco Partnership look at for this tower?**

They did not list the other sites.

**Why is this site the best for the tower?**

There was no definite answer to this question.

**What were the results of the balloon test?**

There was no definite answer to this question.

**What type of equipment will be used on a temporary and permanent basis?**

There was no definite answer to this question.

**What will the noise decibels be to the surrounding residents from this equipment on a daily basis?**

The equipment will be enclosed.

**What are the health risks to the community?**

Nothing was presented.

**Was there a soil and ground stability test?**

If this was done what were the results?

There were no drawings of the site plans for the tower in the middle of the homes.

Why not?

How will the current grade of the land be disturbed?

There was no definite answer to this question.

Could the height of the tower be higher?

Cellco stated yes.

Members of the community had 3 minutes to present their concerns such as:

Towers such as the one that is being proposed are unsightly, undesirable, unhealthy and defaces the property values monetarily and aesthetically for the local residents and the town.

The cultural impact with a tower of this size will jeopardize the integrity of the landscape to the historical river valley and one that should be preserved not defaced with a cell tower in the middle of town.

There are many different types of possible exposures from a cell tower and there are no confirmed studies or test results that prove that the health of the people in the immediate vicinity would not be at risk.

How could the fire department propose something like this without speaking to the people in the community? This was inconsiderate of the fire department and the cell tower should be reconsidered for this site going forward.

There are a lot of uncertainties that could occur within this plan to build a tower of this size so close to the fire house and the surrounding homes. In the event that the tower should ever fail or fall there are many targets for it to hit (the fire house, property lines, the Gaylordsville country store and across South Kent Road).

If this is truly a case for better communication signals for the fire department then why put a tower down in the river valley rather than at a higher point of elevation. There are many other sites within two to three miles that would accommodate a cell tower of this size and not put the burden on the residence and town (photos of the sites below are attached).

**Optional sites north of the proposed site:**

The Hydro Station canal – this 1.3 miles north of the fire department on Route 7.

CL&P property – this is 0.6 miles north along Route 7 on elevated land.

**Optional sites south of the proposed site:**

Squash Hollow Road at the old stone quarry – 1.8 miles south along Route 7.

New Milford Auto Wreckage – 3.2 miles south along Route 7.

The fire department and Verizon would be the only ones to benefit from this tower with an estimated monthly income at or around \$2,500.00 to \$4,500.00 per month for the fire department. For Verizon I would imagine it would be big business.

This tower will have a negative impact to the river valley that is scenic and beautiful and I appeal to the Connecticut Siting Council and ask that the application of the proposed cell tower be denied for all of the reasons and concerns mentioned above. This tower will deface the property values for both residents and the town.

Sincerely,



Michael Covert  
17 South Kent road  
Gaylordsville, CT 06755  
860-354-3427

Cc: Pat Murphy  
Mayor of New Milford  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

Susan Tuz  
The News Times  
860-354-2274  
[nhutson@newstimes.com](mailto:nhutson@newstimes.com)

Kathy Castagnetta  
Zoning Enforcement Officer  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

Gaylordsville Fire Department  
700 Kent Road  
Gaylordsville, CT 06755

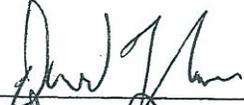
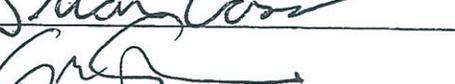
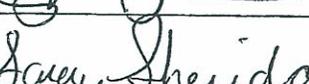
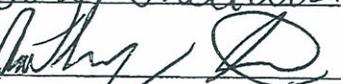
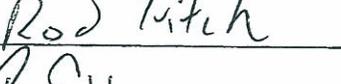
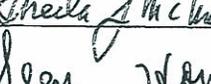
Siting Council, Connecticut  
Fred Cunliffe - [fred.cunliffe@ct.gov](mailto:fred.cunliffe@ct.gov)  
Lisa Fontaine - [lisa.fontaine@ct.gov](mailto:lisa.fontaine@ct.gov)  
Christina Lepage - [christina.lepage@ct.gov](mailto:christina.lepage@ct.gov)  
David C. Martin - [david.c.martin@ct.gov](mailto:david.c.martin@ct.gov)  
Robert D. Mercier - [robert.mercier@ct.gov](mailto:robert.mercier@ct.gov)  
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# PETITION OPPOSING THE BUILDING OF A 120 FOOT CELL TOWER TO BE LOCATED AT 700 KENT ROAD, GAYLORDSVILLE, CT 06775

To: Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Cellco")  
Robinson & Cole Law Offices  
# 280 Trumbull St. Hartford, CT  
Town of New Milford Zoning Commission and  
State of Connecticut Council authorizing the building said cell tower.

Signature

Name & Address

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 1.  |    | DAVID FLYNN Buckingham Ham Lane                                |
| 2.  |    | Joe Jacobus South Kent Rd                                      |
| 3.  |    | BRENDAN DWYER Rt Browns Forge Rd                               |
| 4.  |   | 2 Evans Hill Rd Gaylordsville                                  |
| 5.  |  | 637 KENT RD GAYLORDSVILLE                                      |
| 6.  |  | Worshite Pkwy  |
| 7.  |  | SEAN SHERRIDAN 24 Browns Forge Rd                              |
| 8.  |  | 24 Browns Forge Rd Gaylordsville                               |
| 9.  |  | 53 Meadowland DR Gayville                                      |
| 10. |  | 157 Gaylord Rd   |
| 11. |  | \$ Overview rd Travis Taylor                                   |
| 12. |  | 5 Kent Rd  |
| 13. |  | 2 Memory Ln.   |
| 14. |  | SHEILA J. McMAHON 5 Anderson Sherman CT                        |
| 15. |  | Sean Howard 15 Grove Rd  |
| 16. |  | 20 Coormann Lane Gaylordsville<br>06755<br>Beth Meyer-DeGrasso |

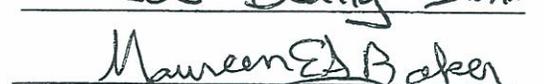
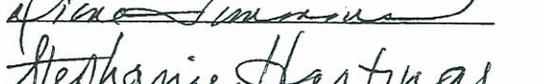
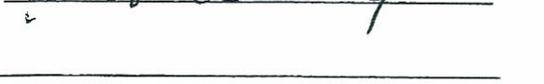
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Signature	Name & Address
1. <u>Guy Edwards</u>	<u>EDMONDS RACING 3 GAYLORD RD</u>
2. <u>Judie Grenier</u>	<u>Judie Grenier 19 S. Kent Rd.</u>
3. <u>Anthony J. Scuder</u>	<u>Anthony J. Scuder 21 SK Kent Rd.</u>
4. <u>MICHAEL COVERT</u>	<u>17 SOUTH Kent Rd</u>
5. <u>MARINA</u>	<u>15 Morningside Lane MARK A. BAWKI</u>
6. <u>Judy Moore</u>	<u>9 Morningside Ln. JUDY MOORE</u>
7. <u>George Assad</u>	<u>Assad 53 Meadowland Drive</u>
8. <u>Joyce Bates</u>	<u>Bates 51 Meadowland Drive</u>
9. <u>John Green</u>	<u>GREEN 15 MEADOWLAND DR.</u>
10. <u>B. Flynn</u>	<u>Flynn 8 South Kent Rd</u>
11. <u>Alma Flynn</u>	<u>Flynn 8 South Kent Rd Gaylordsville</u>
12. <u>Stephen DeWitt</u>	<u>65 South Kent Rd. Gaylordsville</u>
13. <u>Ellen Berson</u>	<u>12 South Kent Rd Gaylordsville</u>
14. <u>Jed Berson</u>	<u>12 South Kent Rd. Givels</u>
15. <u>Jane Cant</u>	<u>17 S. Kent Rd. Gaylordsville</u>
16. <u>Mary Marin</u>	<u>MARINA 706 KENT RD Gaylordsville</u>

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 # 280 Trumbull St. Hartford, CT  
 Town of New Milford Zoning Commission and  
 State of Connecticut Council authorizing the building said cell tower.

Signature	Name & Address
17. 	39 Grove Rd Lise Goedewaagen Elm
18. 	Brian O'Leary 30 Meadowland Dr
19. 	Timothy J. Beatty Sherman
20. 	493 River Road.
21. 	
22. 	
23. 	41 Webster Rd Gaylordsville
24. 	12 Newton Rd
25. 	12 Newton Rd
26. 	15 Riverview Rd.
27. 	16 Riverview Rd Gaylordsville
28. 	14 Colonial Ridge Dr Gaylordsville
29. 	14 Colonial Ridge Dr "
30. 	57 Meadowland Dr Gaylordsville
31. 	65 South Kent Rd Gaylordsville
32. _____	_____

To: The New Milford Zoning Board

From: Ted Berson 12 South Kent Rd., Gaylordsville, CT. 06755

I object to the erection of a 120 ft. cell tower on Fire Dept. property in Gaylordsville for the following reasons:

The tower would be located in the heart of historic, colonial Gaylordsville. It will be a potentially dangerous and visually repulsive blight on the community.

Unquestionably, there are more appropriate, more discreet and functionally better sites along the Rt. 7 corridor.

There is no assurance that such a tower would eliminate dead spots.

There is no assurance that such a tower would be shared by other cell companies in addition to Verizon.

It is very questionable if the fire Dept. truly needs improved communication. The Dept.'s August 2006 letter to the community reviewing its recent activities and discussing its needs and problems, does not even hint at Any communication problems. When did this need arise? If it truly does exist, can't, we, the residents of Gaylordsville, solve it in a less destructive manner?

It's been estimated that neighboring property values will be impacted by 30 to 40%. This is a tremendous wallop to residents' savings. The town of New Milford will have to reappraise Gaylordsville and will unquestionably lose tax revenues.

There are health and safety issues here as well. How loud will be the propane generators be?

How much radiation will residents be exposed to?

Will the tower attract more lightning to a spot already prone to such strikes?

To the New Milford Zoning Commission

We urge you to oppose the leasing of Gaylordsville Fire Department Land to Cellco, for the purposes of erecting a 120 foot cell tower.

This is not an appropriate site for many reasons.

1 Other more appropriate sites along the commercial route 7 corridor were not considered. This tower should make use of an existing structure, such as an electric pole and should not be erected in a low lying river valley, but should take advantage of a natural elevation.

2 This proposed cell tower unlike any others in New Milford is surrounded by 8 homes. South Kent Road, where the tower will actually be located, is a rural and residential road. The tower which have a 20' by 30' foot structure at its base, and a 100 by 100 foot cyclone fence surrounding it is totally out of character with our road. See attached photos

Also the setback and fall zones are not adequate. If there was a storm and the cell tower fell, it could fall on the very fire station that leased its land to erect it and so prevent emergency fire and ambulance vehicles to be dispatched.

3 The proposed tower will sit in the heart of historic Gaylordsville, actually it would be as bad as if , the tank on the New Milford green were removed and a 120 foot cell tower would be erected there.

This tower is surrounded by historic houses and general stores and post office , all dating from the 1830's.

4 Real estate appraisers have confirmed that the presence of this unsightly, noisy cell tower will decrease the property values of surrounding homes by as much as 30 to 40 %, and will also decrease the values of homes on the rest of South Kent Rd.

These homes would be reassessed and the property taxes that the town of New Milford would receive would greatly decrease.

5 It is unknown what the health and safety issues are posed by having a tower in the backyard of our home. Nor do we know its effect on our wells or ground water.

Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department

Dear Members,

We are neighbors of the Fire Department and are greatly distressed by your intent to lease Fire Department property to Cellco, for the purposes of the construction of a 120 foot cell tower.

As the owners of local homes, we greatly appreciate the efforts of the GVFD to preserve and protect the integrity of our homes.

However we know that the leasing of fire department land is counter to this mission. The erection of this cell tower will negatively impact the rural and historic nature of the village of Gaylordsville. This is not to mention its negative effect on the property values of all the adjoining homes, as well as the rest of Gaylordsville. Conservatively we estimate that this represents Hundreds of thousands of dollars of property value loss.

We urge you to withdraw this ill conceived application.

If there is need for improved fire house telecommunication facilities, we as neighbors will help you raise the needed funds.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. A. K.", written in a cursive style.

I am Ellen Berson , and I have lived at 12 South Kent Rd in Gaylordsville, for 16 years. I directly face this rural meadow, which Verizon would turn into an industrial compound. I, along with the neighbors of the fire dept, and residents of Gaylordsville urge to you oppose the leasing of the Fire Dept land to Verizon for the purpose of erecting a 120 foot cell tower and compound.

Many of our neighbors have expressed their opposition to the tower both in letters to Verizon's lawyers and to the GVFD

This is not an appropriate site for many reasons.

This proposed cell tower unlike others in the New Milford area is surrounded by 8 homes, 5 of which are from the 1830's. South Kent Rd, where the tower will actually be located is a rural and residential, road and the gateway to residential Gaylordsville. It is in a low lying river valley, not on a mountain top, which is surely a better location.

When one drives around and looks at cell towers, one sees them on the edges of busy highways, not in rural meadows, surrounded by historic homes.

It is not only ~~that~~ the tower that would be ugly and destructive of our rural landscape, but also the 20 by 30 foot metal structure at its base ( holding the generator, and surrounded by a 100 by 100 foot cyclone fence.) This is totally out of character with our road. I will pass around photos of what this would look like, as well as photos of the historic homes which would face this horror.

Concern is not about tree line - Bob from Sikel Rd

Also we are concerned about the impact of a noisy propane generator. Has it been demonstrated that this noise will not leave the property line ?

Even 1 a week.

This cell tower which would be erected at the gateway to Gaylordsville, would have the same impact on village, as if the tank on the New Milford green was removed from the and a 120 foot cell tower was erected in its place.

One wonders how they would feel if they lived on South Kent Road, instead of elsewhere. They further conclude that their business gain ,far outweighs the destruction of our rural and historic landscape, not to speak of our financial loss, when our property values plummet.

To conclude I will quote from the editorial in this weeks' Litchfield County Times. " If you are among the legions who cherish the rural beauty of Litchfield County, you might have grimaced. In New Milford where the view of the rolling hills to the north are marred by the recent arrival of a cell tower, another tower plan is on the table for a site in Gaylordsville. Towers are not new or uncommon in New Milford, but that hasn't swayed public opinion an inch. Even as there is no disputing how necessary reliable cell phone service is ,this conflict signals that it's time for federal lawmakers, and cell phone companies , to figure out better ways to go wireless without despoiling the landscape.

One of our neighbors asked the fire chief, if he knew what the tower and structures would look like, and what the negative impact it would have on our town and he said that he had no idea. The notion that the fire dept would lease its land to Verizon without having any idea of what the tower and structures would be like, is truly mind blowing.

The G F V D has a mission to preserve and protect the homes and residents of our village. By leasing to Verizon they are being a bad neighbor and are actually destroying the health, beauty and safety of these homes and their residents.

Many years ago, Mabel Honan, who was a long term owner of the house in which I live, donated this land to the fire dept for recreational use. It was to be used for the enhancement of the village of Gaylordsville, and not to be leased to a noisy, dangerous and unsightly cell tower structure.

The cynical report submitted by Verizon, dismisses the primary impact Of the tower as VISUAL, as if this is a trivial matter.

They claim to have asked for a ruling by the State Historic Preservation officer, we would like to see this ruling, if it exists.

The conclusion of the proposal is particularly disturbing. It states that Verizon( who will benefit financially from the tower has concluded ( that the need for improved wireless services) far outweighs any PERCEIVED environmental effects of the proposed facility.

Where is the demonstration of public need? If some cell phone users cannot use Verizon and have to use a rival cell company like Sprint, who has a tower in our local church, why do we need a Verizon tower in the Gaylordsville meadow ? If the GVFD needs improved communication facilities, we as neighbors will help them find a better solution.

There has been no demonstration that this cell tower will eliminate dead spots. This location is in low lying river valley, surely not the best location for a tower.

## Gaylordsville Facing Tower

By **EMILY M. OLSON**

**NEW MILFORD**—Verizon Wireless wants to erect a cellular communications tower on property owned by the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department, and an informational hearing by the Zoning Commission Tuesday will address concerns raised by Zoning Enforcement Officer Kathy Castagnetta regarding the plan.

*Continued on Page Twenty-Two*

# The New Milford Times

## Cell tower plan to be aired

BY EMILY M. OLSON  
*Managing Editor*

Verizon Wireless wants to erect a cellular communications tower on property owned by the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department, and an informational hearing by the Zoning Commission Tuesday will address concerns raised by Zoning Enforcement Officer Kathy Castagnetta regarding the plan.

Residents concerned about the plan are also expected to speak at the meeting, to be held at 7 p.m. While local land-use entities can offer input on plans for new telecommunication towers in the state, the agency with the final say over location is Connecticut Siting Council.

So, the zoning forum is more of a formality—something Ms. Castagnetta acknowledged in her report on the plan—but she also pointed out that concerns raised by local land-use boards and residents are strongly considered when by the council when it makes its final ruling.

“These types of facilities are exempt from local land use regulations, however, municipal officials are entitled to receive technical information regarding the proposal,” she wrote. “The applicant must provide a summary of the Town’s comments and recommendations to the Siting Council with their application to the Council. If the town has significant concerns, it can choose to become a party in the Siting Council’s proceedings. Although it has been concluded that local land use regulations are pre-empted, the commission

# TOWER PLAN TO BE PRESENTED AT ZONING

(Continued from Page A1)

ing regulation regarding telecommunications facilities, which is a good outline for what should be reviewed."

The proposal calls for a 120-foot-tall tower with 12 panel-type antennas on top. Other equipment associated with the tower will be located in a 12-foot-by-30-foot shelter near the tower's base. The tower and shelter will be located in a 100-foot-by-100-foot leased compound area on a 3.18-acre parcel of land, and accessed by a 12-foot-wide gravel driveway. The area will be fenced in, according to Ms. Castagnetta's report. The property is adjacent to the firehouse, but is actually located on South Kent Road, not Route 7, as the proposal suggests, she said.

In her report, Ms. Castagnetta pointed out that the scale of the tower design is unclear, and that it did not comply with required setback regulations from other properties surrounding it.

"It was difficult to scale the

site plan as it had been significantly reduced to no particular scale," she wrote. "Regulations require that a tower be set back from all property lines a distance equal to 1.5 times the tower height ... to meet the standard of the regulation the tower should be setback at least 200 feet to all property lines ... it appears the tower is only set back 120 feet to the Cromwell Family property line to the west, 30 feet to the Fire Department property line, and about 200 feet to the South Kent Road property line, and at least 200 feet to the north property line ..."

The setback issue was of particular concern with regard to the firehouse, she said, because the "fall zone" of the tower crossed the property line of the firehouse where trucks and other emergency vehicles and equipment is stored.

"Can the proposed facility be located further from this structure which houses emergency equipment?" Ms. Castagnetta asked. "It seems that if a tower

## *What's it going to look like to have a 120-foot tower in the middle of the neighborhood?*

—ELLEN BERSON, TOWER SITE NEIGHBOR

were ever to fall it would be during a time of intense weather or other emergency where emergency equipment and personnel would be needed. If the tower fell on the building, the emergency services would be incapacitated."

In her report, Ms. Castagnetta also noted that alternative locations for the proposed tower should be further investigated, including sites elsewhere along Route 7 north and existing structures owned by Connecticut Light & Power.

"A statement was made with regard to the site selection process and tower sharing, and conclusions made that this is the best site for the proposed tower, however, no backup documentation has been provided to substantiate this assertion," she

wrote.

She concluded her report with an opinion.

"I believe location of a tower at this site may have an adverse impact on the character of the Gaylordsville Village and I believe adequate documentation must be provided to prove that construction of this tower is absolutely necessary and that all alternatives have been considered," Ms. Castagnetta said.

"Although the [zoning] commission does not have jurisdiction it appears, based upon past tower proposals, that the Siting Council does seriously consider the Commission's input."

Residents living in the neighborhood are aware of the proposal and plan to attend the meeting to voice their concerns.

Ellen Berson, who lives

## commission meeting

across the street from the site where the tower is to be built, doesn't think it's a good idea at all.

Ms. Berson's home is one of several in the neighborhood that was built on or around 1836. "This cell tower is right in our backyard," she said. "We're pretty concerned. Last year we had a big electrical power spike and we lost power, cable, telephone and electricity, and we're worried about that happening again."

"It's also totally out of character for this rural place, that's surrounded by historic homes," Ms. Berson said.

The fire department owns a field across from its Route 7 property in the center of Gaylordsville, which is used for parade staging and events.

"That field is zoned commercial—why don't they lease that instead?" Ms. Berson asked. "It would seem much more appropriate to me there. It's inappropriate and visually, it's wrong. What's it going to look like, to have a 120-foot tower in the mid-

dle of the neighborhood?"

The resident noted that cellular equipment is often installed in church steeples—in fact, the United Methodist Church in Gaylordsville and the Congregational Church in New Milford have such equipment of panels and it's hidden from view.

"It's wonderful—the church gets the revenue and they're not so offensive," she said. "That idea is much more appropriate. It's not the same visual distraction."

Ms. Berson was also concerned about the impact a 120-foot tower would have on people's property values.

"We feel kind of helpless," she said. "These big companies have so much money to throw around. I mean, we all want to use our cell phones, but cell towers should be better designed than they are. And once they're there, they're there forever. This one is going to be on the main road to Gaylordsville. For people who might want to sell their homes, they could be in trouble."

2

# Neighbors Are Concerned About Cell Tower Plan

*Continued from Page One*

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*'What's it going to look like to have a 120-foot tower in the middle of the neighborhood?'*

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007

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## set for Tuesday

By Nanci G. Hutson

THE NEWS-TIMES

NEW MILFORD — Michael Covert of South Kent Road is opposed to having a cell tower built at Gaylordsville Fire Department, and he intends to make his voice heard at a Zoning Commission information hearing Tuesday night.

In letters to the Zoning Commission and the mayor's office, Covert said he and many of his neighbors intend to fight the proposed location of a 120-foot cell tower in the center of "this historic community."

Celico Partnership, a division of Verizon Wireless, proposes erecting the tower on 3.18 acres of fire department property on north Route 7 near Kent border.

The Connecticut Siting Council must grant permission for such facilities, but local zoning commissions are allowed to offer their opinions.

Zoning enforcement officer Kathy Castagnetta has questioned whether a tower is the best option for improving cell service in the area. She thinks the equipment could be installed on an existing structure.

Though fire department officials and some residents say a tower will improve public safety by enhancing cellular communication, Covert said he is disappointed residents of the town's northern village were not asked.

"In communities such as ours we rely on support from one another and for our neighbors to do the right thing," Covert said.

If better communication is the goal, Covert said the tower could be located in the river valley two or three miles away rather than at a higher elevation.

If the fire department needs to generate more revenue for its operations, Covert said, he thinks residents would be happy to find alternatives to reimbursement for a cell tower.

"Towers such as the one that is being proposed are unsightly, undesirable, unhealthy, and deface the property values monetarily and aesthetically," Covert said.

"... A tower this size will jeopardize the integrity of the landscape to the historical river valley — one that should be preserved," Covert said.

# Cell tower foes to speak

Comment  
on this  
story!  
NewsTimesLive.com

# Towers of Power

If you are among the legions who cherish the rural beauty of Litchfield County, you might have grimaced at the offbeat news story making the rounds earlier this week—the one about the guy collecting returnable bottles from a dumpster who fell asleep and awoke in a trash truck whose load was soon to be compacted.

How did this fellow escape almost certain death? By using his handy cell phone, of course, to notify the authorities, who, in turn, managed to find the right truck just before the guy would have been... well, you get the picture.

Forget the incongruity of a dumpster diver having a cell phone and focus on the seeming non sequitur of what the story has to do with the Litchfield Hills. The thread stitching them together is this: Experiences like one in which a cell phone and reliable service are what saved a life will only reinforce already vigorous federal laws that give wireless providers free rein in littering the landscape with telecommunication towers.

In New Milford, where the view of the rolling hills to the north from parts of the downtown and elsewhere is marred by the relatively recent arrival of a tower absurdly made to look like an ailing evergreen, another tower plan is on the table for a site in Gaylordsville. [See the story on Page One].

Towers are not new or uncommon in New Milford, but that hasn't swayed public sentiment an inch over the years. Among her concerns, resident Ellen Berson had these things to say: "It's also totally out of character for this rural place that's surrounded by historic homes," and "We feel kind of helpless. These big companies have so much money to throw around. I mean, we all want to use our cell phones, but cell towers should be better designed than they are."

She's right, of course, even as there's no disputing how necessary reliable cell phone service is. Doesn't that conflict signal that it's time for federal lawmakers to figure out better ways to go wireless without despoiling the landscape?

---

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.

—Abraham Lincoln

# NEW MILFORD ZONING COMMISSION AND THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL.

Reference: Cell Tower proposal from Cellco Partnership / division of Verizon Wireless about erecting a 120 ft. cell tower on property owned by the Gaylordsville Fire Department in Gaylordsville, CT.

From: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Marino, # 706 Kent Rd., Gaylordsville, CT. Resident & adjacent property owners to the proposed construction of a cell tower being built behind the Gaylordsville Fire Department.

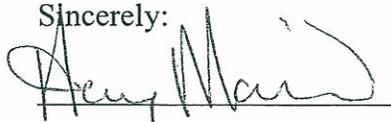
Date: 01/09/2007

As a resident and property owner, my wife and I are opposed to the building of a 120 ft. cell tower in the center village of Gaylordsville. The reasons for our objections to the cell tower are as follows, (see below list) which I'm sure you will address / consider before approving the building of such a tower.

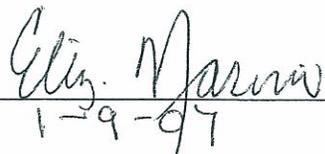
1. The building of the cell tower would have an adverse visual impact on the community, travelers and home values, (adjacent to tower) which, in my opinion, will decrease. The position/height of the cell tower would be visible to all who travel along the Rte. 7/Housatonic River corridor, which has long been revered for its scenic beauty. Also, the location of the tower would be in an area surrounded by older homes and buildings.
2. Would the building of the cell tower impact the safety of adjacent property owners if it toppled over?
3. Would the building of the cell tower effect well water of homeowners in the area if machinery fails and oils/etc leak into the surrounding ground? I further have concerns over the noise levels machinery/generators will have on residences in the area of said tower.
4. Where are the several other site locations Cellco's real estate representatives extensively searched/considered for placement of the tower and why those locations were rejected by Cellco?

5. Why can't Cellco use existing cell towers in the area to suit their needs and the needs of the Gaylordsville Fire Department (Public Safety issues)? There are existing towers in Kent, Gaylordsville and New Milford, (Boardman Rd. area) which I feel has not been thoroughly reviewed. Also I feel that existing structures/sites along Rte.7 such as the Connecticut Light Power Hydro Plant / stacks located at # 781 Kent Rd. Gaylordsville, CT. should be explored for use by Cellco.
6. David Williamson, Chief of the Gaylordsville Fire Department (GVFD), advised me on 12/31/05 that the reason the GVFD needs a cell tower on its property is for better radio communication with dispatch during times of crisis. Let it be noted that a GVFD News Letter dated 8/2006, which was signed by Chief Williamson to the residents of Gaylordsville, makes no mention of the fire department having safety concerns over radio communications. (See attached copy of said news letter.) My concern is that there has not been any survey(s) done by the fire department to indicate that their placement of equipment on Cellco's cell tower would, in fact, eliminate any safety concerns GVFD has. Also, there has been no survey(s) by the Fire Department to indicate that the use of any existing cell towers in the area would not meet their safety/radio needs. I would also like the zoning board to take notice that the GVFD could have addressed with the mayor and members of the town council about the fire departments radio concerns and requested additional funds for improvements to that area. Through recent news paper articles (The New Milford Times) residents of the town have been made aware that New Milford is in robust fiscal health with over a \$10,000,000 surplus.
7. Also in recent news paper articles (New Milford Spectrum) members of that staff, (Spectrum) which include long time residents Art & Norm Cummings are hopeful that towns people will work together to retain many of the characteristics of the rustic village that New Milford once was as the town enters its fourth century.
8. In conclusion, I strongly believe that the building of Cellco's cell tower in the center village of Gaylordsville would have a severe impact on the characteristics of that small section of New Milford. I also feel that Cellco, along with the GVFD, has an obligation to the community to provide adequate documentation clearly indicating that this tower is absolutely vital to all, and that all other options have been thoroughly reviewed and all avenues exhausted by both Cellco and the GVFD.

Sincerely:



Henry & Elizabeth Marino





**The Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department**  
**Post Office Box 230, 700 Kent Road. Gaylordsville, CT 06755**

August 2006

Dear Neighbor,

It sure feels like summer is quickly slipping away and so far the fire department has been pretty busy this year. If you are new to the community, we welcome you and invite you to stop in and meet some of your neighbors, the firefighters of Gaylordsville. As a fire department, we train for many different situations that can affect our community. Our members are trained in water rescue, confined space rescue, HazMat operations, road and traffic safety and of course firefighting. We also train with the neighboring fire departments in the adjoining towns, as we all depend on each other for mutual aid assistance. We have been fortunate to keep a rather consistent roster of members, except for the junior members. Those numbers seem to keep growing! For those of you who use the Internet, you can check us out on-line at: [www.gvfd.com](http://www.gvfd.com), to find out almost everything about your local fire department.

On a practical note, I would like to remind you that if you have not changed the batteries in your smoke/CO detectors, now is an excellent time to do so. This simple action can literally be a lifesaver. I would also ask that you check and see if your house is clearly labeled with your house number so responding emergency personnel can quickly locate the residence. And finally, despite having a rather wet spring and early summer, brush fires are a real threat to our community. Please be careful with open campfires and even simple things like cigarette butts and barbecues.

I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope that I hope you will use to contribute whatever you can to the GVFD. Your help and support plays a vital role in the safety of our community and any amount you could contribute would be most appreciated. If you are interested in joining the department, please contact me or any member of the GVFD. Please feel free to stop in during our Thursday evening work sessions and visit with any of the firemen. Bring the kids. We will gladly give you a tour of our facility and apparatus. We hope to see you all at the various events we sponsor throughout the year and at the parades that we march in, representing our wonderful community.

Again, thank you for your support and have a safe summer.

Respectfully,

David E. Williamson, Chief

Visit us on-line at: <http://www.gvfd.com>

***You have received this letter, because your home is located within the  
Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department, Fire District.***

**Photos of Historic  
buildings located within  
250' to 600' of proposed  
tower location**









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kbaldwin@rc.com  
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August 27, 2007

Patricia A. Murphy  
Mayor  
Town of New Milford  
10 Main Street  
New Milford, CT 06776

Re: **Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless – Proposed  
Telecommunications Tower at the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire  
Department Property, 700 Kent Road, New Milford, Connecticut**

Dear Mayor Murphy:

It has been some time since we met with the New Milford Zoning Commission to discuss the proposal by Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) to construct a telecommunications tower behind the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department in New Milford. The Zoning Commission, thought, among other things that Cellco should explore the use of the CL&P transmission line towers in the Gaylordsville area further to determine if they presented Cellco with an alternative to a new tower site. We have now completed that additional research and have concluded, for several reasons, that the original tower proposal should proceed. We will include, as a part of our application package, a description of the CL&P structures investigated and an explanation as to why they can not be used. We anticipate filing the Application with the Siting Council in September 2007.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth C. Baldwin



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