

STC Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee was held at Mallory Town Hall on June 1, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM.

Attendees included First Selectman Don Lowe [DL], Gail Maletz [GM], Steve Maletz [SM], and Terri Hahn [TH]. Zoe Sochor [ZS] and Al Zeisler [AZ] were not in attendance.

Ron Cooper [RC] observed the meeting as a representative of Planning and Zoning.

Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2018 STC meeting was made by DL and seconded by SM. Unanimously approved as distributed.

Correspondence/Public Comment

GM reported that at the May 24th Board of Selectmen meeting, Susan Zeitler again expressed her concerns about the safety of cell towers. She was invited to attend an STC meeting or to contact us to arrange a discussion.

Old Business

- A. **T-Mobile lease at Happy Acres Farm:** DL reported that the current draft lease was redlined by T-Mobile's attorneys and returned to Sherman. The changes were approved by Don Lowe and attorney Matt Willis. The lease is now in the hands of the Happy Acre farmers for approval. A small disc not in the original plan that was approved by Planning and Zoning is new technology that must be part of the installation and will need P&Z approval. RC explained that several months ago, P&Z was notified by AT&T about the need to install such a disc, but specifics have not yet been received. Once the information is received, approval may be a simple process, or it may take several months.
- B. **Sherman's emergency equipment installation:** DL reported that a new site in the south end of Town is being considered instead of Tower Hill. DL said that according to Chris Fuchs, Aquarion will allow the equipment to be installed on their water tower at the top of Big Trail at no charge to the Town. Approval of Timber Trails Associates for access to the tower will be necessary. TH reported that two years ago, the Timber Trails Homeowners Association paid for a lock on the fence surrounding the tower to allow the SVFD access, which should be considered precedence.
 - o **Action:** TH to share historical information with Chris Fuchs of SVFD

- C. **Communication with New Fairfield personnel regarding requesting updated coverage assessment map from CT Siting Council:** It was agreed not to pursue. Sherman received our updated maps from CT Siting Council on 5/15/18.
- D. **Homeland Towers / Ray Vergati [RV]:** TH spoke with RV, who reported that he is working with a land owner on Route 37 regarding construction of a cell tower. She suggested that RV contact DL, which he did. A meeting is being arranged to include RV, DL and Aldo Pascarella [AP] to discuss cell tower possibilities. (N.B. The owner RV referred to is separate from his negotiations with AP.)
- E. **Commercial carriers' plans for Sherman:** AT&T recently contacted DL about their renewed interest in providing cell service to southern Sherman. This is partially as a result of a grant they have been awarded. DL met with two representatives of AT&T. The sites once again being considered are on Coote Hill and at the top of Long Meadow. RC reminded the committee of the concerns that the owners of Coote Hill (which is a private road) had when that site was proposed in 2013.
- F. **Facebook page:** The action was tabled until the next meeting.
- o **Action:** ZS to change the name of the group's Facebook page from Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman to the Sherman Telecommunications Committee, and post the notice to followers. She will also note that the committee has 1 vacancy.

New Business

- G. DL proposed changing STC's regular meetings to 11:00 AM on the first Friday of every month. Those present were in agreement.
- o **Action:** GM to contact AZ and ZS for their approval.
- H. TH reported that Northwest-Connect's most recent email newsletter focused on the impact Fiber Optic infrastructure will have on The Arts in the area covered.
- o **Action:** TH to contact Felicia Jones regarding the possibility of scheduling a Community Information Session in the future.

Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.
- B. Next meeting: Friday, July 6, 2018, 11:00 am, Mallory Town Hall