

The two boards questioned Verizon on many issues including the height of the access road. The denial of the Verizon permit from Building Inspector Marsden specifically mentioned that portions of the driveway are located below the flood level. It is advised that the driveway be elevated to prevent flooding. There was speculation from the boards that Verizon may have to come back for additional relief from the wetlands buffer as they will need more width to properly raise the driveway. Therefore, the board requested more specific elevation plans. They also requested a test pit be dug to evaluate whether or not the swale to the east of the driveway can handle the runoff from the driveway as well as from the topography that pitches toward the road. Verizon stated it is a corporate protocol to not perform test pits at this time. After some negotiation, the town and Verizon agreed the town would perform the test pit and Verizon would pay for it with some escrow.

It was questioned if the town and Verizon have taken into account the two foot sea level rise that will take place over the next 30 years. Given the length of the tower contract, the marsh is predicted to turn from tidal wetland to salt marsh and will encroach upon the tower pad and the driveway.

Verizon had an expert speak about property values to try to prove there is no effect. Examples were not as close in proximity to a cell tower as our 68 Port Way locations are. Resident referenced one of the Brackett Rd submissions regarding health issues and diminishing property values that Brackett Rd. residents used to fight the tower last year. At the end of the meeting Attorney Donovan asked that resident to submit a copy to both boards through Kim Reed.

Several members questioned the height and if it could be reduced. It appears this location is actually within a tenth of a foot of the same elevation as the Brackett Rd location. Jim Finn did try to push to see if there was any way the height could be reduced even a little to appease the neighborhood, but they were pretty firm that the second tenant AT&T was already at the minimum height and AT&T is the carrier for the Federal First Net system. It is pretty much mandated by the government that AT&T be on the tower. The concerning part of this discussion was when Shawn Crapo suggested we increase the tower height to 150 feet to alleviate an additional cell tower in town. There was a lot of discussion regarding this suggestion.

The town also requested an elevation drawing showing the tower in relation to the existing trees. Some drawings depicting how much of the tower could be seen from a few of the houses in the Port Way neighborhood. There were ten items in all that Verizon needs to follow up on and produce for the town. They wanted a full month to work on these items.

There is a site walk and balloon test to be done at both 126 feet and 150 feet on January 4th starting at 9am. They will attempt to fly the balloons until 12 noon. That will happen unless the balloons break. The meeting location is at Arick's house on Port Way.

The next joint meeting to discuss the cell tower is Tuesday, February 18th.

In the event of adverse weather, a backup date for the site walk and balloon test is January 11th. Same time.

There were more people from the Brackett Road area than Parsons Rd. Several spoke to reinforce that this deal needs to happen. They want the town to jump through hoops to make this deal happen.