

Town of Haverhill
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 6:00 PM
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785
And on Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joanna Bligh, Board Clerk, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call Attendance: Sandi Pierce (Present); Mike Bonanno (Here); Esther Hodges-LeClaire (Here); Rick Henson (Present); Matt Bjelobrk, ex officio (Present). A quorum was met.

Housekeeping Items:

Bligh stated that this meeting is being audio and video recorded and that anyone from the public who wishes to speak to state their name before speaking.

Town Employees Present:

- Jennifer Boucher, Assistant Town Manager
- Joanna Bligh, Zoning Board of Adjustment Clerk

Members of the Public Present: Susie Tann, Mary Patridge, Joe Longacre, Margo Longacre, Paul Hayes, Francis Parisi (Vertex Towers), Dave Joslin, Alex Nuti-de Biasi (*Journal Opinion*).

Bligh introduced Boucher to discuss the goals of this meeting. Boucher stated that the meeting is organizational to nominate chair and vice chair and to set a public hearing date for Vertex Towers.

2. Designation of Alternates: None.

3. NOMINATIONS

Nomination for Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Pierce nominated Bonanno as Chair, and Henson seconded the nomination.

Roll Call Vote: Henson (Aye), Pierce (Aye), Bjelobrk (Aye), Bonanno (Abstained), Hodges-LeClaire (Aye). The vote was four in favor and one abstention. The nomination was approved.

Bonanno was voted in as Chair. Bligh transferred the meeting operation to Chair Bonanno.

Nomination for Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Henson nominated Pierce as Vice Chair, and Bjelobrk seconded the nomination.

Roll Call Vote: Hodges-LeClaire (Aye), Henson (Aye), Bjelobrk (Aye), Bonanno (Aye), Pierce (Abstained). The vote was four in favor and one abstention. The nomination was approved.

Pierce was voted in as Vice Chair.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: Bjelobrk made a motion and Pierce seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written.

Roll Call Vote: Henson (Aye), Hodges-LeClaire (Aye), Bjelobrk (Aye), Pierce (Aye), Bonanno (Aye). The vote was unanimous. The Agenda has been approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: None.

6. PUBLIC APPEARANCES (previously scheduled): None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: None.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

Review of Haverhill Personal Wireless Service Utilities / Vertex Tower Building Permit

Bonanno asked about the Balloon Test and stated that the Select Board [Planning Board] asked to have the Balloon Test in place for 48 hours, and he agrees and also suggested a weekend schedule. Bonanno asked to have the Board notified when the test is going on. Hodges-LeClaire stated that in their packet, Vertex guarantees the test for 3 hours only. The Board members were in agreement.

Bonanno asked Francis Parisi (Vertex Towers) for the company to conduct another Balloon Test with the above specifications.

Parisi stated that the Company can do as requested, but he stated that the Public Hearing needs to be scheduled and then the company will schedule the Balloon Test appropriately. Discussion continued on the sighting criteria (“for a minimum of 3 hours”) from page 23 to page 24 of the Vertex Towers narrative. Parisi argued that the weather for a successful balloon launch 10 days in advance is challenging to predict. Parisi discussed the logistics of balloon testing in Haverhill where winds have to be under 10 mph to be successful. Parisi suggested overadvertising the Balloon Test so that more residents can observe it.

Bonanno stated that with the final decision in the hands of the Zoning Board, the members must have an opportunity to view the Balloon Test. Discussion continued.

Tann (audience member) suggested that the 48 hours balloon floating be spread over a few days. Henson suggested adding a Monday to the viewing days for commuters to see it on their way to work.

Bonanno asked the members if they approve of a Balloon Test schedule of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The members agreed.

The members discussed the timeframe for applications and decisions on the variance by the Zoning Board. Parisi noted that the application was in September 2021 and the required timeframe begins at that time, so that the Town of Haverhill is already in violation and the federal government encourages towns to act expeditiously on telecommunications infrastructure. Discussion ensued. Bonanno stated that the Zoning Board has 30 days from tonight to hear your case.

Bonanno recommended the Balloon Test be on December 17, 18, 19, and 20 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Parisi and the members discussed advertising and inserting notices in the local newspapers.

Bonanno asked about Section 7.1.3 in which he read how the lattice tower would blend into the surrounding landscape and how the applicant requests a variance if the facility does not meet the provisions of the Town's Ordinance. Bonanno asked for comments. Bonanno asked about whether lights are required on the tower. Bjelobrk responded that any tower 250 feet or higher is required to have lights and any tower under 250 feet may be lighted, but it is not required. Bjelobrk further stated that the proposed tower is not in the flight path. Hodges-LeClaire asked about the minimum height necessary to provide coverage and whether a lower tower (i.e., 100 feet) would provide coverage. Bjelobrk asked if Parisi could provide the efficiency of the tower at height increments. Bonanno asked if the Board could be provided this information before the Public Hearing.

Tann and Patridge expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed tower on the scenic vistas in the Town and how photos need to be taken from their properties during the next Balloon Test. Patridge requested the video of the last Balloon Test be available to the public on the Town's website. Boucher confirmed that the request for more photos on County Road was made at the Planning Board meeting, and Parisi will be providing those photos and videos to the Zoning Board.

Parisi stated that he will present the extensive materials from Vertex Towers at the Public Hearing for the Zoning Board like what was presented to the Planning Board.

MOTION #2: Bonanno made a motion and Pierce seconded the schedule the next meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a Public Hearing (Vertex Towers) on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 6:00 PM.**

Roll Call Vote: Henson (Aye), Pierce (Aye), Bjelobrk (Aye), Hodges-LeClaire (Aye), Bonanno (Aye). The vote was unanimous. The Motion has been approved.

Bonanno asked for Parisi to forward the requested materials to the Zoning Board as soon as possible, and Hodges-LeClaire asked for the Planning Board presentation to be sent as well.

Tann suggested that the Board receive the materials to review and that an engineer and a lawyer be made available to the Board.

Hodges-LeClaire and Bonanno discussed that the consideration of deciding at a subsequent Zoning Board meeting after hearing the presentation at the Public Hearing.

Longacre, Acting Chair of the Planning Board, stated that the Planning Board approved the site plan with the conditions, including approval by the Zoning Board of the variances and to provide additional Balloon Tests for the Zoning Board.

Bonanno summarized stating that Vertex Towers will provide materials to the Town, which will be forwarded to the Zoning Board and placed on the website.

Next Steps

- Bonanno stated the next steps are the Balloon Tests (December 17, 18, 19, 20 between 8 AM and 4 PM) and a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

9. PENDING BUSINESS: None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATION: None.

11. COMMENTS OF TOWN STAFF:

- Bligh: None.
- Boucher noted that she will work with Parisi to get the materials to the Board and on the website and to make sure that all the advertising is completed.

12. COMMENTS of the PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS:

Henson: Henson discussed the issues related to 5G technology (short wavelength) that has not been proven to be safe for the public.

Pierce: None.

Bjelobrck: None.

Hodges-LeClaire: None.

Bonanno: None.

13. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 4, 2022, at 6:00 PM at the Clifford Building.

14. ADJOURNMENT

15. MOTION #3: Bjelobrck made a motion and Pierce seconded the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Henson (Aye), Pierce (Aye), Bjelobrck (Aye), Hodges-LeClaire (Aye), Bonanno (Aye). The vote was unanimous. The Motion has been approved.

