

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2016**

Town of Bedford
Bedford Town Hall
Selectmen's Meeting Room

PRESENT: William Moonan, Chair; Alan Long, Vice Chair; Karen Kalil-Brown, Clerk; Lorrie Dunham; Chris Weisz; Sal Canciello

ABSENT: None

Mr. Moonan introduced himself and read the emergency evacuation notice.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Long read the notice of the hearing.

Daniel Klasnick, the representative for Bell Atlantic Mobile, greeted the Commission members and reminded them that Verizon had been appeared last month with a proposal for a small antenna outside the steeple at the First Parish Church, which was approved, and a fence enclosure for a backup generator. He said that the fencing portion of the application had been continued, as the Commission felt it was too high and obtrusive. He stated that they had modified this proposal, bringing the proposed fence down from eight feet to seven feet and also changing the style of the fence to make it look more attractive, along with adding landscaping. He said that there had been discussion at the last meeting about perhaps lowering the generator or locating it in an underground vault, and the Verizon engineers had provided letters certifying why those were not viable options.

Ms. Kalil-Brown asked how high the proposed generator would be. Mr. Klasnick replied that it would be six feet from grade.

Ms. Dunham talked with the applicant about the noise levels of the generator. She said she was concerned that it would be very loud for abutters. Mr. Klasnick said that there would be baffling and noise-dampening material around the generator to ensure that the noise was not an issue.

The applicant talked with the Commission about the modified fence proposal. Mr. Moonan noted that he would still prefer a wooden fence rather than a vinyl one. The other members agreed.

Reverend John Gibbons, of First Parish Church, said that the Church had put together a comprehensive plan for energy conservation, and one aspect of that plan was a potential vault on the Elm Street side of the building which would house HVAC and, ideally, the Verizon generator as well. Mr. Moonan said that the Commission would be delighted if this proposed generator were placed in an underground vault.

The Commission talked more about the location of the generator and vault with Reverend Gibbons, Mr. Richard Daugherty, and Mr. Joel Parks, all of whom were present to represent the First Parish Church.

Mr. Long asked whether this proposed generator was simply for an incremental service for coverage, or whether Verizon had a pressing reason for a “drop dead” deadline date. Mr. Klasnick replied that Verizon did have a defined gap in coverage for this area, so it was urgent for them, but there was no specific date needed for the installation.

Mr. Moonan asked whether Verizon would be willing to put the generator in a vault, should one be built. Ron Pennimpede, of Hudson Design, replied that he would certainly put the generator in a vault if given the opportunity. Mr. Long said that the vault would be the most desirable outcome for all involved, and suggested holding off on any approval until the vault situation can be resolved.

Mr. Klasnick said that he would like to at least receive an approval for the fencing tonight, so that if the vault prospect does not work out, Verizon can move forward as originally planned. Mr. Weisz said that he was hesitant to approve the application as presented, not only because of the vault possibility but because the fence was still, in his opinion, too high, and he would much prefer a wooden fence rather than vinyl.

Mr. Long said that he still felt the best option here was to hold off on any approvals until such time that Verizon and the Church members can discuss the vault situation in more detail and determine whether placing the generator in the vault is a viable option. The other members concurred.

MOTION:

Mr. Weisz moved that the Commission withhold any approvals for Verizon Wireless, at First Parish Church, 75 Great Road, until the meeting of February 3, 2016.

Ms. Kalil-Brown seconded the motion.

Voting against: None

Voting in favor: Moonan, Long, Dunham, Weisz, and Canciello
Abstained: None

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

BUSINESS MEETING:

First Parish Church – Future Plans

