

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Project Review Committee

May 28, 2006 4:00pm

Remote Participation via Zoom

Minutes

Project Review Committee Members

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| X | Lee Cattaneo, Orange Commissioner |
| X | John Brabant, Calais Commissioner |
| X | Bill Arrand, Worcester Commissioner |
| | Peter Carbee, Washington Commissioner |
| | Robert Wernecke, Berlin Commissioner |
| X | Alice Peal, Waitsfield Commissioner |

1 Staff: Christian Meyer, Lorraine Banbury, Sam Lash

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3 Public: Sheila Duranleau, Washington; Jennifer Nissi, Town of Washington; Cooper Hayes, MSK
4 Attorneys

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6 L. Cattaneo called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

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8 **Public Comments – Verizon Telecommunications in Washington**

9 Several residents of Washington, including former Selectboard Chair Sheila Duranleau and Jennifer Nissi,
10 reiterated opposition to Verizon's proposed telecommunications for a new cell tower in Washington
11 Village. Comments focused on the project's perceived inconsistency with the Town Plan, the
12 subsequent need for substantial deference to the Town, potential impacts on the village's historic
13 character and aesthetics, and unanswered questions from the Town and The Project Review Committee
14 from the two previous advance filings. Residents stated they remain willing to discuss alternative tower
15 locations that would improve service while avoiding impacts to the historic village.

16 Verizon's representative responded that Verizon has no record of decommissioning any facilities in the
17 area and noted that the project had been revised to include a propane-fueled backup generator in
18 response to earlier concerns. The representative also expressed willingness to continue discussions with
19 the town and interested residents.

20 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

21 None

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23 **Approval of Minutes**

24 A. Peal moved to approve the 3/27/2-26 and 4/23/3036 meetings' draft minutes. B. Arrand seconded, all
25 in favor, motion carried unanimously.

26

27 **Act 250 Updates**

28 L. Banbury shared three new Act 250 applications:

- 1 • Waitsfield: Conversion of part of an office building to a residential unit in Waitsfield
- 2 • Montpelier: Construction of outdoor pickleball courts and associated improvements at Green
- 3 Mountain Fitness to be used as overflow parking in winter
- 4 • Williamstown: Construction of two four-unit apartment buildings in Williamstown on municipal
- 5 water and sewer with Planning Commission support

6

7 **Small-Scale Energy Projects**

8 S. Lash shared recent activity, including:

- 9 • Nine small-scale renewable energy projects were submitted since the last review, for a total of
- 10 approximately 140 kilowatts of capacity
- 11 • Expiration of several incentive programs is likely to be the cause of the continued reduction in
- 12 new projects

13 **Section 248 Updates**

14 S. Lash gave updates on the following existing applications:

- 15 • Waitsfield: GMP Irasville Substation Upgrade Project received its Certificate of Public Good
- 16 • Waitsfield: Small rooftop solar project in Waitsfield, which is a preferred site by the State and in
- 17 the Regional Plan

18 **Section 248a Updates**

19 S. Lash shared an update on three de minimis cases:

- 20 • Barre City, Berlin and Fayston: All were modifications of existing telecommunications facilities,
- 21 not new towers, and met the criteria for de minimis filings

22

23 **Washington Verizon Tower Section 248 a**

24 Staff stated that the proposed location is within a Zone 2 protected wellhead area, and source water
 25 protections had been discussed with ANR. S. Duranleau and J. Nissi asked for follow-up responses to
 26 questions from previous filings from both the Town and the Project Review Committee. Difficulties with
 27 current communication and previous community meetings were also identified. C. Hayes asked for a
 28 formal request be made by the Select Board to meet with the community.

29 S. Lash explained that the pre-filing is a preliminary review period, and that once the application has
 30 been made, further details will be available, including visibility as aesthetics, and at that point, specific
 31 questions can be asked. Once the application has been filed and deemed complete, the Committee has
 32 30 days to comment on it. She will keep the Committee informed and will give an update at the next
 33 meeting, or sooner if needed.

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35 **Adjournment**

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- 37 A. Peale moved to adjourn, J. Brabant seconded, all in favor, motion carried unanimously. Meeting
- 38 adjourned at 5:04 pm.

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40 *Respectfully submitted by L. Banbury*

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