

Tyringham Planning Board
Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2012
(Approved 01/23/12)

Present: Rich Biasin, Barbara Palmer, Ed Nardi, Carey McIntosh, Jerry Miller, Robin Almgren.

(1) Minutes – Minutes for 10 Dec. 2011 approved as circulated.

(2) Building permits -- two, neither requiring our attention.

(3) Consultant -- Barbara talked with Monterey. They are not happy with their consultant. They have also used BRPC and its lawyer Brian Domini for advice on wireless applications. They point out that there aren't many good Radio Frequency Engineers in this area, and those few probably work for big companies. Ed talked to Nat Karns, who says we don't have to put our search out to bid but should do a RFP. Since Monterey's wireless bylaw has recently been revised with help from BRPC, it can help us write our own. Jerry says Pollard also recommends a RFP. Rich can get us names of engineers from Dennis Tychert. Moved, seconded, and voted to proceed with both BRPC (a technical assistance grant) and an RFP; Carey and Ed will do the grant application, and Jerry will get samples of this kind of RFP.

(4) Wireless Communications Bylaw -- Discussion of revisions of 6.7 continued, touching on: the AG's recommendations; setbacks and fall zones; riverfront areas (200' from a perennial stream); VII K 1 b, with its easement; the Monterey wireless bylaw, which requires a distance of 3 times the height of the tower from any school and 600' from any residential structure; the need for flexibility, in case the broadcasting facility is a very small tower or not a tower at all; partial coverage of the town; feedback from abutters; distance between towers. Moved, seconded, and voted: towers shall be a minimum of 600' from any residential structure (vote 3-2). The opposition to this motion points out that it robs us of flexibility to respond to each application on its own merits: every tower location proposed will have different advantages and liabilities, and Bylaw 7.3.3 gives the Board the power to protect scenic, environmental, historic, and other resources by imposing just those conditions that are appropriate for that application. Supporters of the motion feel that in a matter as vital as this some guidelines, some minimum distances, are useful, in the same way that (for example) other zoning bylaws set minimum distances for home setbacks from boundaries.

Members are asked to review our present draft and circulate their revisions before our next meeting, 23 January.