

## **Radio Technical Committee**

### **Meeting Notes for April 17, 2008 8:00 a.m.**

Present: John Caswell, John LeGates and Paul Svetz

Also present at the table: Asst. Town Administrator Anita Scheipers

#### Discussion Points:

1) The committee reviewed the facts of the tower as follows:

The approved elevation of the base of the old tower was 383.86 ft above sea level.

The actual base of the new tower is 386.20 ft above sea level.

The overall approved height of the old tower was 433 ft.

The overall height of the new tower is 467 ft.

Therefore the new tower is 34 feet in height above what was permitted for the old tower.

It was explained we are now sure the height as measured and of concern by the FAA includes the antennae height.

However, when comparing the existing tower against the 80 ft tower license approved by the FAA in Jan. 2008, the existing tower is only 3 ft above what is permitted, but additionally is out of compliance as it is not painted or lit. A waiver for these provisions has not yet been submitted to the FAA.

2) Anita Scheipers explained that based on this newly discovered information, she and Timothy Higgins wanted to contact FAA as quickly as possible to resolve any issues relative to where we stand with compliance of the existing tower. She asked which committee member might be available to join them in a meeting with the FAA. It was determined John Caswell would represent the committee. The group then identified the key points which need to be presented to the FAA as follows:

- The existing tower was originally thought by the public safety department to be in compliance with the 2000 permit.
- Recent work of the Radio Committee discovered discrepancies in the information used to make that determination and have figured the existing tower is 34 feet out of compliance.
- The existing tower is 3 feet out of compliance from the 2008 permit, as well as not being painted or lit.

- We are currently attempting to identify what is the lowest height of this tower which could be maintained and still provide adequate radio system function. This determination shall be made in mid to late May.
  - We wish to inform the FAA of the existing situation and to request guidance as to how to ensure FAA compliance.
- 3) John LeGates raised the issue of the tower screening options again. He stated he wished the group to clarify if this work was to be done by the Radio Committee or by a separate group to be established by the Selectmen. It was agreed the main issues are preservation of the existing trees through maintenance and strategic replanting as necessary. Anita Scheipers informed the group that the Selectmen had already received the request regarding finding an arborist to complete an analysis of the existing trees. The consensus of the committee was that a separate group should be formed to deal with the other screening issues as from a neighbor's point of view and as identified at the last meeting. This message will be sent to the Selectmen.
  - 4) John LeGates informed the group that he had spoken to the FAA and determined that trees do not represent adequate shielding for the tower and therefore do not eliminate the need for regulation, including lighting and marking.
  - 5) A resident asked if what is the likelihood of the FAA approving any waiver for the painting and lighting of the tower. The committee answered there is no way to determine this in advance.
  - 6) A resident stressed the potential painting and lighting of the tower was the top concern for the residents.
  - 7) Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.