

## **Radio Technical Committee**

### **Meeting Notes for Feb 28, 2008 7:30 pm**

Present: John LeGates and Paul Svetz

Also Present: Anita Scheipers, Asst. Town Administrator, Resident Fred Hopengarten and Resident Paul Shelman

Not Present: John Caswell

#### Discussion Points:

- 1) The committee made recommendation of minor edits to the Selectmen's draft charge of the committee noting the timeline needs to be extended by approx. 45 days to allow the appropriate timing of the signal testing in may when trees are fully leafed out to allow proper analysis of the degree of interference to radio signals. If this extension is approved, the ZBA and residents should be notified. The final charge will be placed on the website.
- 2) The various options the committee will agree to review was discussed in the form of the "decision matrix" which itemizes all options to consider and all criteria by which to judge the options. The matrix was amended with the clarification of and addition of various options and criteria. Anita Scheipers will re-draft the document and send to the committee for approval. The matrix will then be used by the committee and town staff to flesh out the evaluation of each option over the next few months. The matrix will be reviewed at each meeting, and placed on the website – with periodic updates as needed.
- 3) The ability to reduce the overall height of the tower antennas by use of smaller antennae was discussed in great technical detail. It was agreed this should be investigated as an option for improving the visual impacts of the tower.
- 4) The scope of the testing was discussed as to whether the study should also measure signal from a lower location on the tower to mimic effect if tower is lowered, or by measuring signal strength when using a smaller antenna whip instead of the 18 long units currently installed. Paul Svetz offered to contact Broadcast Signal Labs to discuss this once he obtained more information about the existing whips.
- 5) Other visual impacts were discussed and those present agreed that while technical work on radio signal and tower options is conducted, action should be taken to ascertain potential effectiveness of some of the aesthetic improvements to the tower via painting, screening and sheathing of the lower sections. Paul Shelman agreed to attempt PhotoShop modification of digital photos to effect a visual estimation of how effective various modifications might be. Anita Scheipers agreed to research with the help of local experts the various vegetative screening options appropriate for the location.

- 6) Next meeting was set to be held in early April when all members of the committee would be available. Exact date and time will be determined and made public.
- 7) Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.