

TOWN OF GRAND ISLE

**MINUTES of the SPECIAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
JOINTLY HELD BY THE GRAND ISLE
SELECTBOARD and PLANNING COMMISSION**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM

LOCATION:

**GRAND ISLE TOWN SCHOOL CAFETERIA
224 US ROUTE 2, Grand Isle, VT**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** AnnaMarie DeMars called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Planning Commission and Selectboard Members Present:

Planning Commission Members, Shawn Mercy-Chair and David Graham
Selectboard Members, AnnaMarie DeMars-Chair, Eric Godin-Vice Chari, Jeff Parizo,
Diane Cota and Rachael Griggs

- II. GUESTS:** Thirty-three guests attended. AnnaMarie asked each person to please state their name and if they are a Town's Person and if not, who they represent. Representatives from the State of Vermont Department of Public Service, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Grand Isle Consolidated Water District, Grand Isle County Sheriff Ray Allen and The Islander were present.

- III. NEW BUSINESS: Proposed AT&T Wireless Communication "facility or project" (Cell Tower) to be Located on land owned by Mark and Evan Cobb at 41 Lovers Lane, Grand Isle, VT**
At this point AnnaMarie turned the meeting over to Jeff Parizo.

Jeff said the Selectboard has it's own municipal attorney, Joseph McLean. He said we have had a discussion with him and it's been agreed upon with AT&T that we are going to pause the 60-day notice. Meaning we are going to give everyone time to get experts together and we will have to have another public hearing. We are not against a cell tower in Grand Isle. We know and agree a cell tower is needed but the town needs to be involved in the location decision.

First of all we will have to execute a Tolling Agreement, which is a legal doctrine, which allows for the pausing or delaying of the running of the period of time set forth by Statute of Limitations. The motion would go as follows:

Eric Godin motions to authorize the Town Attorney to execute a Tolling agreement to pause the running of the 60-day advanced notice period. Substantiating the form provided by AT&T's council reviewed by the Selectboard subject to any minor modifications the Town Attorney may deem appropriate. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Jeff said it is official everything is on pause now. What we are here to do tonight is to hear from the Town's people questions you may have for AT&T for the next meeting or hearing and if there are any questions about what we are doing right now. There will be an end date at some point. Our attorney and AT&T's attorney are working that out right now. The next public hearing will be warned and most likely held at the school again. Tonight we are asking for questions and comments. We have asked the VT Department of Public Service to provide experts.

Attorney Andy Montroll represents some of the residents on Lovers Lane. He said in the 60-day notice they didn't really talk about the character of the area. One of the primary rolls for the Selectboard and Planning Commission is making sure it's compatible with the character of the Town. The area being affected is a residential neighborhood. Lovers Lane is a dirt, class 4 road and not suitable for a cell tower. He talked about other issues.

Emily Clark, landowner on Lovers Lane listed concerns of the residents of Lovers Lane and that the Town's bylaws were not followed. The biggest concern is the health issue with a cell tower in this location.

Jeff said our town attorney just received a copy of the Town Plan. At this point we are not sure what we could share.

Jim Porter, PSB said the State Statues requires AT&T to have a meeting with the Town and for the PSB to be involved during this period, which the SB has done. We can hire an aesthetics person. At the next meeting it will be very helpful to have AT&T attend.

Michael Inners representing the GICWD said the water district was interested in hosting this cell tower at the water tower location on Lovers Lane. It would be peculiar for the town to oppose it and then approve a site across the road. We are still willing to host it and intend to use the money to reduce debt service rates. Michael said personally, the town needs better cell service and he supports other locations. He has talked with Sheriff Ray Allen who has offered to have the tower located behind the Sheriff's Office on Route 2 in Grand Isle. This would benefit the whole county.

Eric Godin said we are not against a cell tower here but it needs to be in a better location.

Shawn Mercy said this is video taped and is going to be broadcasts. AT&T does have availability to look at the comments from tonight and hopefully gauge the responses and prepare themselves better for the following meeting.

After a very informative discussion Jeff said we are just learning. With the first application at the water tower on Lovers Lane we didn't engage the Town Attorney, this time we did to find out how to handle this new proposed tower. We will keep everyone informed. The next meeting will be warned posted.

Without any further questions the meeting was motioned to adjourn.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: Jeff Parizo motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

NOTE: This entire meeting was video taped by Lake Champlain Access Television and soon can be viewed by Googling LCATV. Choose viewing by Town and enter Grand Isle.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

AnnaMarie DeMars, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____