

Caswell County Planning Department

Planning Board Meeting Caswell County Historic Courthouse June 27, 2017

Members Present: Keith Blalock, Jason Daniel, Steve Harris, Russell Johnson, Don Swann

Members Absent: Michael Poteat, Leon Richmond, Ray Shaffner, Sterling Carter

Mr. Russell Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Russell Johnston asked for comments on the agenda. Mr. Jason Daniel made a motion for the agenda to be approved. Mr. Steve Harris seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Don Swann made a motion of open a Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Laura Goode of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, came before the Planning Board. Ms. Goode stated that she and Mr. Jason Bagwell were there on behalf of the applicant, Verizon Wireless, to answer any questions. Ms. Goode gave the Board an over view of the property located at 193 Shaniqua Drive and explained more about the proposed tower. Ms. Goode explained that there was an area lacking coverage that would be filled by the proposed tower to better serve customers. Mr. Russell Johnston asked Ms. Goode about the how long the process to select location and apply for the tower had taken. Ms. Goode responded that it had taken several years to select a location but she had been working with Ms. Catesby Denison since February 2017. Mr. Johnston asked where the closest residence was located to the proposed tower site. Ms. Goode showed them Exhibit 6 from the Tower and Antenna Use application. Mr. Blalock asked about the length of the lease for the property. Mr. Bagwell said they had twenty-five year divided in five year terms.

Mr. Benjamin Guy of 1538 East Hughes Mill Road came before the Planning Board. Mr. Guy said that he had received a letter about the new tower but most of his neighbors hadn't received the information about the meeting. Mr. Guy would like to discuss the exposure of the radiation that may cause cancer. He said loves his community and the real issue is the medical concerns that will affect the neighborhood. He stated he had requested someone from Environmental Research but he wasn't able to attend due to the time. Mr. Guy stated that they need to look at the liability of the medical causes and how it effects the environment.

Ms. Mary Baynes of 1590 Hughes Mill Rd stated the tower will be located at the end of her land. Ms. Baynes said she doesn't want to live that close to the tower. Ms. Baynes said she wanted to know why they were just sending out the letters about the tower. She also stated she doesn't like the idea the tower being placed where they live.

Mr. Bryan Shoffner of 150 Shoffners Loop Road stated his property was adjacent to where the tower will be located. Mr. Shoffner wanted to know the effects on his grandchildren. He said really doesn't have an issue with the tower, just wanted to know the side effects.

Ms. Latoya McCandies of 2625 Hughes Mills Rd stated she doesn't want the tower, she had heard of the medical effects and was thankful for the hearing and wanted to voice her concerns.

Ms. Laura Goode stated she understood their concerns and questions. Ms. Goode referred to Exhibit 13 of the Tower and Antenna Use Application which showed that they were in compliance with the FCC regarding emissions. She also stated that the towers hadn't caused any medical issues nor reduce property value.

Mr. Benjamin Guy wanted to present information about a case in South Carolina. Mrs. Goode reviewed the information and stated that she objects the information to be included on record. Mr. Russell Johnston did not accept the document as evidence due to lack of expert testimony and authenticity of documentation presented.

Mr. George Martin Jr. said he rented a nearby property. Mr. Martin said he had just learned of the meetings and when concerned when his landlord mentioned cancer.

Ms. Laura Goode objected to any references of cancer.

Mrs. Sharon Guy stated she lived in the area and worked for the postal service and that the letters didn't go to everyone but those that lived within a two mile radius. She also wanted to know why the meetings were scheduled at 1:00 pm when most people worked.

Ms. Latoya McCandies stated that she thought that if the tower was a health issue they wouldn't install the tower and understood the objections made due to no medical expert there, but if one was there would it have made a difference in the discussion.

Mr. Russell Johnston asked for motion to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Steve Harris motion and the motion was second by Mr. Keith Blalock. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Russell Johnston opened the floor for discussion by the Planning Board members.

Ms. Catesby Denison stated the four options for the Planning Board were to: (1) approve application, (2) approve with modifications, (3) review for additional information, or (4) deny application.

Mr. Russell Johnston asked how was the public notified. Ms. Catesby Denison stated UDO requires notice in local newspaper for 2 weeks but not less than 10 days and no more than 25 days. Ms. Denison said that letters were mailed to the owners of all adjoining parcels. Ms. Denison said there were also signs posted at the end of Shaniqua Drive. Ms. Denison said the letters were mailed on June 15th via First Class Mail and it was based on the tax listing.

Mr. Jason Daniel stated the Planning Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month and they as board members have public jobs also.

Mr. Don Swann asked what the closest house to the tower is. Ms. Goode showed the GIS map showing the location and the closest property lines.

Mr. Russell Johnston stated the process was lengthy and all guidelines had appeared to have been met.

Mr. Russell Johnston then ask for a motion for a decision on the application. Mr. Steve Harris motioned to approve the application and Mr. Jason Daniel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Mr. Benjamin Guy came before the board and asked a question about regarding the Anderson Township and how it is a township and ran by Caswell.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Russell Johnston asked for approval of the previous meeting's minutes. Mr. Keith Blalock motioned to approve and the motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Ms. Catesby Denison gave an overview of the changes the Board had asked her to make regarding the Hyco Lake Zoning Area. The Board asked that it be discussed at the next meeting once they had more time to review the information.

New Business

Ms. Catesby Denison stated she had received an email regarding the Benshae Metals property and that they had begun clean up.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm – motion made by Mr. Keith Blalock and seconded Mr. Don Swann.

Angela Wilson, Administrative Assistant prepared the minutes above. They represent a brief description of those matters that were addressed at this meeting.