

**Planning Board – Public Hearing**  
Longmeadow Police Department – Meeting Room  
34 Williams St, Longmeadow, MA

*Wednesday, August 1, 2018 7:00 p.m.*

**Members Present:** Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Ken Taylor, Bruce Colton, Heather Laporte.

**Absent:** Stephen Crane, Town Manager

**Others Present:** Edward Pare, John Arthur, Marie Angelides, Phyllis Taylor, Emanuel Wenig.

The **Planning Board Public Hearing** was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Donald Holland,

**Continuation – Site & Design Review Application 20180404-1 – Wireless Edge Towers LLC:**

Edward Pare, attorney on behalf of Wireless Edge Towers LLC, made a request for continuance until October 3<sup>rd</sup> and provided the following explanation:

1. The project is a multi-carrier pole and Verizon Wireless, being the lead tenant in the project, has yet to complete their internal due diligence reviews. Their presence in the meeting is key in justifying to the Town's public bodies the proposed height of the tower.
2. He apologized to the Board for the frustration this delay has caused.
3. A balloon test was conducted – height to be 132' per the Visibility Analysis and Photo Simulation.

**Comments from Board Members and Town Manager:**

- Walter Gunn indicated that Town Manager Stephen Crane was absent from the meeting due to a previously scheduled vacation.
- Bruce Colton asked about the cause of the delay considering that the application was filed in the Spring.
  - Edward Pare explained that as part of the bid organized by the Town of Longmeadow, there were certain timelines for filing the application with the appropriate public bodies, which Wireless Edge LLC has complied with; however, Verizon's internal due diligence has prevented the carrier from providing Wireless Edge LLC with all the final information to complete the required presentations.
  - John Arthur, CEO Wireless Edge LLC, explained that when carriers decide to enter into a lease with companies such as Wireless Edge, their internal protocols for approval of such contracts may take several months due to the size of the corporation.
- Bruce Colton asked if the construction of the tower is contingent on Verizon signing lease.
  - Edward Pare explained that yes; either Verizon or another carrier that wishes to become the lead tenant must sign the lease to move forward.
- Walter Gunn pondered whether this delay may be a reflection of the Town's flawed bidding process (and not the applicant's fault), since the timelines provided to the bidders failed to also consider the required timelines of the tenants involved in the project, who provide key information to be reviewed in the applications.
- Donald Holland requested that, if Verizon hasn't finalized their portion of the work in time for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the application should be withdrawn and filed again at a later time. He pointed to the nature of the public hearings, which attract local residents when posted in the local paper and they expect the project to be discussed when they show up at the hearings. In this case, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> continuance issued to this application.

- Edward Pare will send a letter to the Board stating the new application timelines if approved.
- Ken Taylor asked if Wireless Edge LLC had considered the installation of the tower on the nearby High School's roof; he also asked when was the balloon test performed.
  - Edward Pare indicated that it was the Town of Longmeadow that designated the location on the RFP sent out to bidders; the balloon test performed on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Walter Gunn made a motion to continue the public hearing until October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Heather Laporte seconded the motion. All in favor, votes 5-0, motion approved.

***Documents presented:***

1. *Wireless Edge LLC Visibility Analysis and Photo Simulation.*

Walter Gunn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bruce Colton seconded the motion, all in favor 5-0, meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*