

## Fw: Please include in public comment section on website Re: Cell Tower

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From: Planning Board (planningboard@town.buckland.ma.us)

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Friday, July 8, 2022 at 01:36 PM EDT

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**From:** Kay Cafasso <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Friday, July 8, 2022 8:52 AM

**To:** Zoning Board of Appeals <zoning@town.buckland.ma.us>; Planning Board <PlanningBoard@town.buckland.ma.us>

**Subject:** Please include in public comment section on website Re: Cell Tower

I believe that we are best to decline this current proposal, preserve the historic character of our Town, and request that Vertex provide us with sufficient alternatives for our review ~ as is clearly required in our Bylaws. (*Section 10-15.2 "The survey for personal wireless service facilities... shall include a rationale for the selection of a prime and at least one alternate site."*)

When we view any 150' non-camouflaged structure in a vast undeveloped landscape, our eyes perceive that structure as a focal point. In this one option from Vertex, our central view upon our landscape ~ which is presently beautiful and absolutely natural ~ would be greatly altered for all, and especially for so many who would view this tower from *their* porches. PHOTO. I actually have a photo here through the frame of an existing porch, and it is of a rainbow striking the exact proposed tower location, just for folks who are not personally affected by this location, to envision the visual impact this will have for others, for your neighbors. Note, we are not even taking into account how this tower will look when it is winter, without any tree cover, for half of the year!

We as a town have waited this long for a cell tower, why not ensure that we are making the *correct* decision, not in a hurried fashion, and without valid *options*, which is why our Bylaws require alternatives. I urge everyone here to read the thorough document that John Holden submitted today, with detailed evidence as to why this singular proposal process and the technology proposed is inadequate, and offers suggestions of less obtrusive designs and valid alternate locations. It is very possible that the old tv station would be a better alternate location, or that two smaller towers distributed correctly may be an option, or that there are other sites best suited to our values and concerns that have not yet been considered, etc. We clearly have more options to consider and fulfill the requirement for a valid alternative. Vertex may benefit from the extensive, informed research that our residents have submitted tonight for all of us to review.

If we had the sufficient *options* today, that our bylaws require, we may be ready to contract for a tower of smaller dimensions (perhaps only serving two providers and therefore smaller in structure) and camouflage (perhaps as a 'tree' or simply with a dark green or brown paint), or a location that does not cause so much alarm for health concerns (which should not be glanced over, as the folks who claim this tech is 'safe' could be held liable in the future), nor potential devaluation of many of our properties (and all the ramifications of that), nor leave such a large stamp on our landscape if and when this technology likely becomes outdated.

While we wait for that better alternative, residents can simply connect cell phones via the internet when at home, or trust that some are still lucky enough to have landlines, which we should all probably have available to us again for safety in the future. Plus, we are best to wait and see how the service from the new and very nearby Ashfield tower will supply coverage once it is soon built, before we make our decision.

In closing: It is important that our town not be swayed into a narrow view and think that this tower is our only option for better service, especially since our Bylaws require that we always have alternatives in order to make the best decision.

I request that the Zoning Board genuinely adhere to our Bylaws that require alternatives, reject this singular proposal, invite Vertex to return with the required alternative (or better yet, alternatives), and preserve our rural

landscape, that we all equally share, enjoy, and value.

Thank you for your time and your care in this matter.

~ Kay Cafasso, Buckland Resident