

Approved at  
16 June 2016 meeting



Special Meeting  
Thursday 2 June 2016 9:30 AM  
Heritage Commission Conference Room  
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara  
Jane Currivan  
Donna Etela, Chair  
Jim Maggiore  
Jane Robie  
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones

Absent: Carolyn Brooks, Nancy Monaghan

Also in attendance: Paul Apple, Town Administrator; Peter Rhoads

1. Call to Order at 9: 34am. Cuetara announced he was recusing himself. Hillier to vote for Cuetara.

**2. Invitation to Comment on telecommunications facility, 22 North Road.**

Etela and Apple provided the background. The Town received a letter dated May 18th and addressed to the Planning and Zoning Administrator from EBI Consulting, a firm hired by a company wishing to construct a telecommunications facility (cell tower). The letter indicated that EBI Consulting wished to receive comments on the proposed project as it relates to the potential effects on the Town's historic resources within thirty days. There was no suggestion that EBI Consulting had begun its research efforts required by the Federal Communication Commission's Section 106 review process.

Apple thought it appropriate that the Heritage Commission review the letter and attachments and make a recommendation to the Select Board about a response. Members had received a copy of the letter and attachments prior to the meeting. Etela also referred members to a NH Division of Historical Resources memorandum dated November 2015 to "Applicants and Consultants" re "Information Policy for Identification of

Historic Properties for Telecommunications Projects / Section 106" and available on its website.

Etela introduced Peter Rhoads, owner of the Drake Farm property, one of the two National Register - eligible properties in close proximity to the proposed site. Scott Bogle, Senior Transportation Planner, Rockingham Planning Commission, was unable to attend. Etela noted that Laura Black at the DHR is that agency's liaison for Rail to Trail projects.

A wide ranging discussion ensued that included historical, recreational, economic development, and public safety aspects of this or any cell tower project. Members referred to the historic resources map based upon the Assessor's database (Town-wide map available on the Town website). Etela reminded everyone that the Commission's role is only from the historic resources perspective.

Jeff Hillier moved the following: "The Heritage Commission, having considered the letter from EBI Consulting requesting the Town's opinion on a possible cell tower application, concludes that the Commission does not have sufficient information to provide a recommendation to the Select Board at this time. The Commission suggests to the Select Board that it request the applicant to provide any Section 106 analysis regarding historic resources as soon as possible, at the receipt of which the Commission could reconsider and provide a recommendation."

Jane Robie and Jane Currivan seconded. There was no additional discussion. Paul Cuetara recused himself. All were in favor.

3. Adjournment: 10:36AM.

Cynthia G. Swank  
Recording Secretary