

**Town of Cornish  
Planning Board Meeting Minutes  
Meeting of 4/07/08**

**Public Hearing**

Cornish Planning Board Members in attendance: Dan Sherman, Greg Wilfert, Sheena Randall, Ken Hall, Judy MacIntyre

Dan Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:45pm

**Agenda Item # 1** The addition of a new permissible use for the Cornish Business Park. A new use which permits Contractor Services to be allowed in the commercial district and in the business district (industrial park). That use is not permissible in any other area of town. The Table of Permissible Uses proposed change states that letter S on the business district signifies that the use requires a special permit following site plan review. The applicant has to show that there is: (A) No alternative site available, (B) no adverse impact on neighboring uses, (C) needs to be consistent with the intent of the historical district overlay. Letter C doesn't apply to the business district. The Commercial district has the same requirement of the letter S for special permit with the same requirements. The new use information was put out to the people that showed up for the public hearing for questions. Diann Perkins asked for a copy of the proposed changes and it was provided. There were no other questions or comments.

**Agenda Item # 2** The Wireless Telecommunication Ordinance. The new tower ordinance has been prepared that replaces the old ordinance in its entirety. The chairman turned over the meeting to Diann Perkins since she is the chair of Comprehensive Planning Committee who worked to update the current ordinance. They took the model ordinance that is used by the state and used it to update the Cornish Wireless Telecommunication Ordinance to be in compliance with the FCC. Dianne Perkins asked for comments and corrections from the people that were in attendance. Ken Hall from the planning board asked to step aside from the planning board in order to make his comments on the ordinance. He worked on the original ordinance for cell towers in 2000. At that time, the towers could not be higher than 150 feet. It also could not be closer than 1500 feet to the nearest building, in case it fell. He is concerned about the effects of the towers on our health. Towers producing several hundred watts of high frequency radio waves may cause health problems in humans and animals. Most damage caused is in people living in close proximity to the towers. The points Ken wants to make are: One tower for the town would be sufficient; 150 feet should be the maximum for the tower height; should the fire department be exempt from any restrictions; and the requirement for 1500 feet distance from any building in case the tower fell should be reconsidered.

Greg Wilfert stated that the distance between tower and other structures cannot be just chosen at will. It had to be supportable in court to protect the town in a lawsuit. New towers in Limerick and Porter are being put up. The Cornish Ordinance states that any new antennas have to go on an existing tower whenever possible. The height of the tower is 150 feet is a maximum. Anything over 200 feet has to be lighted. The FCC regulates all towers because of the frequency coming off it. Any person or organization that wants to put up a new tower has to prove that they cannot use an existing tower before they can be given a permit for new one. If this is the guideline and the Planning Board adheres to it then the town is protected.

Sheena Randall stated that the High Road tower is for emergency uses only. If it is to be used for other things it needs to be brought before the Planning Board. The High Road tower has to be for emergencies only. It cannot be used for anything commercial. She doesn't believe that the High Road tower should be on this ordinance.

Dan Sherman stated that the reason to reconsider the ordinance is to clean it up and improve some weaknesses in the previous version. If the High Road Tower remains in the ordinance as it currently is, there is no reason that the use would change from what it is today.

Ken Hall stated that the money that was used to build the High Road tower was granted to the town from the Department of Homeland Security for emergency use only.

Tracy Jordan asked why the High Road tower can't go commercial. Couldn't the town use the money earned from renting space on the tower. Dan Sherman stated that the town could use the money; however, the tower is specifically designated for emergency use and cannot be used for anything else.

Following discussion on the proposed changes, it was resolved that the changes made as of January 23, 2008 should stand. It was noted that there have been 2 months for the Planning Board to make comments and corrections/changes before tonight. The public hearing is for the public to make comments and recommend changes. There were no recommendations for change offered by the members of the public. A motion was made to move forward with the meeting, and it was turned back to Dan Sherman, Chairman of the Planning Board. Dan read the procedure and said that the Planning Board needs to take a vote and move the ordinance forward to the Selectmen. Greg Wilfert made a motion to close the discussion and move to the next item which was to vote for the two articles discussed. The Planning Board unanimously voted to go forward and recommend the tower ordinance and the change of use for the Business Park to the Selectmen for a Town Meeting vote.

The meeting was adjourned.