

**TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH, MA**  
**Public Safety Communication Committee (PSCC)**  
MINUTES – Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 8AM at Town Hall

1. The meeting convened at 8:05 AM at Town Hall, Hilberg & Morse Rooms. Present: Chairman Malcolm Reid, members, Frank Hubley, Jeanne Steele Kangas, John Rosamond, and Maria Neyland. Eric Wong came late. Absent: Member George Elenbaas. Also present: Fire Chief Randy White, Selectman Jim Gorman, and Town Planner Adam Duchesneau. Also: Neighborhood residents Frank Coolidge, and Matt Fearer.
2. Jeanne Steele Kangas agreed to serve again as Clerk.
3. The Minutes of the September 3, 2015 meeting arrived too late to be approved, and are deferred until next meeting.
4. The Chairman asked members what information they have for this meeting.
  - a. Issues related to 100' monopole at Liberty Field. Frank Hubley described the issues regarding preparing the site, and reported that just for the structure of a 100' monopole at Liberty Fields, it would cost about \$100,000 to start. He took elevations of the site, and found it's 350' above mean sea level; but the Middle Road site is 440'. Thus, he stated that it's much lower and isn't usable at reasonable cost.

We viewed the enlargement of the coverage maps that Adam prepared: The Middle Road propagation study at 35' Talk-Out. The elevation is about 10' below the Hill Road ridge. Frank obtained another study, using a different program, and at 40'. Far fewer voids appeared on his study map. He observed that the south end of Mass. Ave. and south of it is an issue. The voids shown on a map are in fact not that bad in terms of the communications signal, he said; it's not "black or white"; and in terms of coverage, both Liberty Fields and Middle Road sites have similar coverage, he said.

Chief White stated that we lose coverage of all of our busiest areas (i.e., Route 495 and Holiday Inn area of town) with a monopole at Liberty Fields; it's like an umbrella: the Fire Department (on UHF) gets "straighter" coverage, and the Police (on VHF) get broader coverage. He noted that the Federal Government has been reducing bandwidth available to Fire Departments, and we are at 470mhz (UHF) and the police are at 150mhz (VHF). The entire state's Fire Departments are in the 400 band, he said.

Jeanne Kangas emphasized that it's a matter of much higher cost and a larger neighborhood with impaired viewshed. John Rosamond stated that Fire coverage is not as good. Jeanne moved that we not consider further the Liberty Fields site. John seconded. VOTED: Unanimously.

- b. Comparisons of three pole locations near the Museum on Middle Road. John Rosamond stated that a pole near the 2-1X pole could be moved a bit closer to Middle Road or uphill to gain elevation, though the septic system of the Museum is in the area where trenching and construction vehicles would have to work. Frank Hubley observed that the present 2-2X pole site is safer, as it's not susceptible to a car accident. Jim Gorman stated that we could get a truck to the 2-2X pole site and pull the present pole and install a new one without jeopardizing the Museum's septic system. Frank noted that it would take maybe 2 hours to pull the present pole and install a new one. There is no significant change in the communications signal with the three locations (including the site at the northwest corner of the parking lot); but the subsurface conditions and getting cable into the building are issues, Frank concluded.

Jeanne asked if we could eliminate one of the three locations. We referred to the blueprint plan of the former Library (Museum) plot, looking at the distances to the lot line, whether trenching would be needed across the present driveway, and discussing having a natural evergreen planted for screening and to improve the aesthetics. Maria Nyland observed that we now are left with the Middle Road site, with a 35' pole with two 10' antennas; total height not to exceed 45'; and fill could be placed at the 2-1X pole area.

Jim Gorman suggested that we not recommend an exact location; and that trees could be planted to screen a pole. John Rosamond stated we do need some specifics, though. Matt Fearer said that the neighbors prefer the 2-1X pole area, and that Littleton Electric would have to be consulted. Jim replied that planted trees could improve the site. Frank Coolidge stated that removing the present light on the pole is important.

John Rosamond moved and Maria Nyland seconded that we approve siting the pole and antenna on the north side of the Museum, precise location to be determined, with appropriate mitigation for view issues of the neighbors. Jim Gorman noted that removal of the present light requires a Street Light hearing by the Selectmen, and that could be done promptly. After discussion of placement of the antennae on the pole, either parallel to the pole and 12-18" away, or on a horizontal arm and about 10' above the 35' pole, the motion was VOTED unanimously.

Frank Hubley then moved and John Rosamond seconded that the pole be approximately 35' tall and about 10' antennas be mounted on a cross-arm not more than 6' long, the total height not to exceed 45'. Jeanne Kangas questioned the aesthetics of that configuration. Frank Hubley stated that top mounted antennas are more likely to produce better communication. VOTED unanimously.

John Rosamond moved and Frank Hubley seconded that the current light be removed and the pole, if possible. During discussion, Chief White noted that the present pole has telephone service with an overhead drop from Middle Road. Jeanne Kangas emphasized that security lighting for the Museum has to be

preserved. The Historic Commission would have to deal with that issue and possible funding, it was decided. The motion was VOTED unanimously.

It was decided to forward those VOTES to the Board of Selectmen for their October 5, 2015 meeting.

5. Next meeting: on October 5, 2015 at 6:40 PM at Town Hall, before the Selectmen's meeting which begins at 7:00 PM.
6. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

*Jeanne Steele Kangas*, Clerk Pro tem.