

WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2008
DRAFT – Revised and Posted 04/25/08

The Wrightstown Township Planning Commission met on April 24, 2008 at the Wrightstown Township Building, 2203 Second Street Pike, Wrightstown. In attendance and voting were: Chairman Frank Davis, Vice Chairman John Halderman, Joseph Conroy, Ann Mark, William Perry and Lary Whalen. Also in attendance was Township Engineer Mario Canales.

Call to Order: Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes: *Dr. Mark moved to accept the minutes of April 10, 2008. Mr. Conroy seconded and the motion passed 4-0-2, with Messrs. Perry and Halderman abstaining.*

Conditional Use – Cricket Communications/Garner Co-location Conditional Use: Attorney Richard J. Lemanowicz and Engineer Michael L. Bohlinger were in attendance to review this application for conditional use to install 6 antennae on an existing monopole structure with two equipment cabinets on a 4 foot by 8 foot platform within the existing OmniPoint Communications Tower site facility located on the southerly side of 870 Penns Park Road at the Cedar Lane intersection.

In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Bohlinger explained that each carrier on a tower is assigned a frequency by the FCC, and the antennae are placed at heights with ten foot separations. Any harmonic interference must be resolved between the carriers as required by the FCC.

Mr. Davis questioned whether there is risk of false ignition of explosives at the quarries by the cell towers. He also asked about interference with the honey bee population.

Mr. Bohlinger said that he is unaware of false ignition being an issue. There would have to be an arrangement between the quarries and the carriers to turn down or turn off power when blasting is scheduled, if necessary.

Regarding honey bees, Mr. Bohlinger said that there has not been a definitive explanation of the decline in the honey bee population. While this might be a topic of scientific research, it has not yet been linked to cell phones or cell towers.

In response to further questions from the Commission, Mr. Bohlinger said that the number of antennae that can be supported by a monopole varies, depending on the size, height and coaxial cable used. Most poles are designed to hold multiple carriers.

Mr. Canales pointed out that at the time of the original conditional use approvals, the Garner site had a maximum of 8 or 9 carriers, while the Hipple site had a maximum of 5 carriers permitted.

Mr. Lemanowicz indicated that the applicant will comply with all review letters.

Mr. Halderman moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the conditional use application of Cricket Communications at the Garner location subject to the condition that the applicant comply with the letters of Pickering Corts and Summerson dated April 1, 2008 and Boucher and James dated April 3, 2008.

Conditional Use – Cricket Communications/Hipple Co-location Conditional Use: Attorney Richard J. Lemanowicz and Engineer Michael L. Bohlinger were in attendance to review this application for conditional use to install 6 antennae on an existing monopole structure with one equipment cabinets and an ice bridge within the existing American Tower site located at Second Street Pike.

Mr. Bohlinger noted that Cricket would locate its antennae at a height of 130 feet, while T-Mobile is at 120 feet and Sprint is at 140 feet. There will be six - 1 5/8 inch coax lines. Repairs are made by two climbers working together using a climb wire; the climbers are qualified in aerial rescue and are CPR certified.

Mr. Canales pointed out that Verizon has been given approval for construction of an equipment shed in the same location as the Cricket cabinet. Because of the steep slopes, Mr. Canales said that he was not sure whether there is room for both the new Verizon equipment and the Cricket cabinet.

Mr. Lemanowicz said that the site will be revisited and plans revised to accommodate all of the equipment on the compound. He said that he would submit revised plans to Mr. Canales within five days. The applicant otherwise agrees to comply with all review letters.

Mr. Whalen moved to table the conditional use application review for Cricket Communications at the Hipple co-location until Mr. Canales has reviewed revised plans. Dr. Mark seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Other Business: Open Space Committee: Mr. Davis informed the Commission that the Board of Supervisors has recommended that the Environmental Advisory Council and Planning Commission form an ad hoc committee to meet immediately after Planning Commission meetings with light agendas to begin work on revising the Township's Open Space Plan. A revised plan is necessary to make application to the County for open space funds. Guidelines from the Bucks County Planning Commission are expected shortly. Mr. Davis asked for Mr. Canales' help by noting on existing maps the location of quarries and public utilities.

Mr. Halderman moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Dr. Conroy seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Mary Donaldson
Recording Secretary**