



New Pond Farm Education Center

August 2023

To Members of the Siting Council:

New Pond Farm Education Center is an abutting neighbor of the Hoyt Preserve (Camp Hoyt) in Redding. We have an active environmental education center and working farm located on our 102-acre property. Although the Center owns the land, the Redding Land Trust has a conservation easement over 80 interior acres, ensuring that our woodlands and open pastures are preserved.

Our extraordinary property provides us with an array of rich outdoor classrooms--woodlands, wetlands, wildflower meadows, pollinator gardens, and 25 acres of open pastures. Our staff members and volunteers work diligently to maintain these wildlife habitats. *We are not just "open space", as described on the project map.* Our property is enjoyed by the 700 families that are members of the Education Center, students in our general classes and summer camps, and the 5,000 students and teachers that participate in our hands-on field trip programs each year.

We are writing to the Siting Council to express our concern over the positioning of the cell tower that is being proposed for the Hoyt Preserve and its potential impact on our programs and the beauty of our wildlife sanctuary. The site that has been selected by MCM Holdings, All Points Technology, and the Connecticut Yankee Council BSA is close to our property line and within sight of one of our most popular hiking trails.

We are requesting that the Siting Council help mitigate the negative visual effects of the proposed installation. We would like written assurance that the "compound" be surrounded by a fence that obscures the equipment and that this fence be planted-out with evergreens that are at least 8' in height. The plantings should be resistant to deer browsing, and they should be replaced if any of them are compromised to the point of not providing effective screening. We have been told fewer than 20 small trees will be removed near the "compound" for the installation and that other trees and shrubs in the area will be left intact, providing a modicum of additional screening. We have also been told the 150' tower will not have any lighting, *now or in the future*, something else we would like confirmed by the Council. (**Docket # 516**)

Sincerely,

Ann Taylor, Executive Director
on behalf of the Board of Directors

101 Merchant Road; West Redding, CT 06896 203.938.2117

Intervenor Status Request Form

Docket No. 517 (ON THE PHONE I WAS TOLD IT WAS DOCKET NO. 516 and I sent an email on 8/25 using the number 516-please accept both of my letters—thank you)

Town: Redding, CT

Date: 8/25/23

Name: Ann Taylor, New Pond Farm Education Center

Address: 101 Marchant Road

City, State, Zip: Redding, CT 06896

Contact Number: 203.938.2117

Email: ann@newpondfarm.org

Manner in which intervenor's participation is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly conduct of the proceedings: As the Executive Director of New Pond Farm Education Center, an abutting neighbor, I would like to be sure that the visual effects of the cell tower and surrounding compound will be as minimal as possible. Our environmental education center's trail system runs adjacent to the proposed location of the tower. We are asking the Siting Council to require vegetative screening around the compound's fencing, and to have that screening replaced if and when it is impacted by wildlife or environmental forces. We are also requesting that as little vegetation (trees and shrubs) as possible be removed between our property line and the cell tower compound.

Manner and extent to which intervenor proposes to participate: We are hoping that our letters to the Siting Council, and our face-to-face discussions with the parties involved, will result in the screening that we have requested. If members of the Siting Council feel that we should participate in any meetings, we would be happy to do so.

Statutory authority for intervenor request: None