

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 499

5 Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular
6 Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a
7 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
8 Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and
9 operation of a telecommunications facility located
10 at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut.

11
12 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

13
14 Public Comment Hearing held on Tuesday,
15 May 25, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
16 via remote access.

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20 H e l d B e f o r e:

21 JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer
22

23
24
25 Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2 **Council Members:**

3 **ROBERT HANNON**
4 Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes
5 Department of Energy and Environmental
6 Protection

7 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

8 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**

9 **LOUANNE COOLEY**

10 **Council Staff:**

11 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**
12 Executive Director and
13 Staff Attorney

14 **ROBERT MERCIER**
15 Siting Analyst

16 **LISA FONTAINE**
17 Fiscal Administrative Officer

18 **For Homeland Towers LLC & AT&T:**
19 **CUDDY & FEDER, LLP**
20 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
21 White Plains, New York 10601
22 BY: **LUCIA CHIOCCHIO, ESQ.**
23 **KRISTEN M. MOTEL, ESQ.**

24 **Also present: Robert Burns, All Points**
25 **Technology Corporation, P.C.**

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s: (Cont'd)**

2
3 **Public Comment:**

4 **HONORABLE DON LOWE, FIRST SELECTMAN,**
5 **TOWN OF SHERMAN**

6 **KRIS FAZZONE**

7 **BILL McCANN**

8 **STEPHEN AND LORETTA QUARANTO**

9 **GAIL MALETZ**

10 **TERRI HAHN**

11 **RONNEY AND HENRY BERINSTEIN**

12 **ZOE SOCHOR**

13 **PETER KURING**

14 **RODERIKE POHL**

15 **PATRICIA BAILEY**

16 **TARA CLANCY**

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18
19
20 **Also present: Aaron Demarest, Zoom co-host**

21
22 ****All participants were present via remote access.**

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Good evening, ladies
2 and gentlemen. This remote public hearing is
3 called to order this Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at
4 6:30. My name is John Morissette, member and
5 presiding officer of the Connecticut Siting
6 Council. Other members of the Council are Robert
7 Hannon, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes, the
8 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
9 We have Robert Silvestri, Louanne Cooley and
10 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

11 Members of the staff are Melanie
12 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
13 Robert Mercier, siting analyst, and Lisa Fontaine,
14 fiscal administrative officer.

15 As everyone is aware, there is
16 currently a statewide effort to prevent the spread
17 of the Coronavirus. This is why the Council is
18 holding this remote public hearing, and we ask for
19 your patience. If you haven't done so already, I
20 ask that everyone please mute their computer audio
21 and telephone now.

22 This is a continuation of the remote
23 public hearing that began today at 2 p.m. this
24 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
25 available on the Council's Docket No. 499 webpage,

1 along with the record of this matter, the public
2 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
3 the remote public hearing, and the Council's
4 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

5 This hearing is held pursuant to the
6 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
7 Statutes and the Uniform Administrative Procedure
8 Act upon an application from Homeland Towers, LLC,
9 and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, doing business
10 as AT&T, for a Certificate of Environmental
11 Compatibility and Public Need for the
12 construction, maintenance, and operation of a
13 telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote
14 Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut. This application
15 was received by the Council on March 12, 2021.

16 The Council's legal notice of the date
17 and time of this remote public hearing was
18 published in the Danbury News-Times on April 15,
19 2021. Upon this Council's request, the applicants
20 erected a sign near the intersection of Coote Hill
21 Road and Route 37 so as to inform the public of
22 the name of the applicants, the type of facility,
23 the remote public hearing date, and contact
24 information for the Council, which included the
25 website and phone number.

1 This remote public comment session is
2 reserved for the public to make brief statements
3 into the record. These public statements are not
4 subject to questions from the parties or the
5 Council, and members of the public making
6 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
7 the Council. In fairness to everyone who signed
8 up to speak, these public statements will be
9 limited to three minutes and will become part of
10 the record for the Council's consideration.

11 Please be advised that if the public
12 comment session does not conclude by 9:30 p.m.,
13 written comments may be submitted by any person
14 within 30 days of this public hearing.

15 As a reminder to all, off the record
16 communications with a member of the Council or a
17 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
18 this application are prohibited by law.

19 I wish to note that parties and
20 intervenors, including their representatives,
21 witnesses and members, are not allowed to
22 participate in the public comment session. I also
23 wish to note for those who are listening and for
24 the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are
25 unable to join us for the remote public comment

1 session that you or they may send written
2 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
3 date hereof by mail or by email, and such written
4 statements will be given the same weight as if
5 spoken at the remote public comment session.

6 Please be advised that any person may
7 be removed from the remote public comment session
8 at the discretion of the Council.

9 We ask each person making a public
10 statement in this proceeding to confine his or her
11 statements to the subject matter before the
12 Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so
13 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your
14 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the
15 Council cannot answer questions from the public
16 about the proposal.

17 A verbatim transcript of this remote
18 public comment hearing will be posted on the
19 Council's Docket No. 499 webpage and deposited at
20 the Sherman Town Clerk's Office for the
21 convenience of the public.

22 Please be advised that the Council's
23 project evaluation criteria under the statute does
24 not include consideration of property values.

25 Before I call on members of the public

1 to make statements, I request the applicant to
2 make a very brief presentation to the public
3 describing the proposed facility.

4 Mr. Burns.

5 ROBERT BURNS: Yes, sir. Thank you.
6 For the record, my name is Robert Burns. I'm a
7 licensed civil engineer in the State of
8 Connecticut working for All Points Technology
9 Corporation.

10 The proposed telecommunication facility
11 is being proposed to be located at 16 Coote Hill
12 Road. It's a 19.87 acre parcel at the end of
13 Coote Hill Road on the east side. The facility
14 itself is proposed to be in the interior of the
15 parcel towards the southeast corner.

16 Vehicle access to the proposed facility
17 is along an existing paved driveway to a proposed
18 1,635 foot long, 12 foot wide, gravel access drive
19 which will cross existing wetlands in two
20 locations.

21 The proposed electric service and telco
22 service will commence at Coote Hill Road and
23 follow the existing paved driveway and the
24 proposed gravel driveway and will be underground
25 the entire way.

1 Can we please switch to the other
2 slide? Thank you.

3 The proposed compound is a 48 foot by
4 50 foot gravel surface compound surrounded by an 8
5 foot high chain-link fence with a 12 foot wide
6 access gate on the eastern side.

7 The proposed compound has been sized
8 for four carriers, AT&T and three future carriers,
9 as well as an area for future municipal ground
10 equipment. Outside of the fence on the southeast
11 side of the compound is a proposed utility area
12 which will include a utility backboard with the
13 proposed electric meters, an electric transformer,
14 and a telco cabinet. This area will be surrounded
15 by steel bollards for protection.

16 Inside of the fence in the southwest
17 corner of the compound is AT&T's ground equipment
18 which will include an 8 foot by 8 foot walk-in
19 equipment cabinet, a 15 kW propane-fired generator
20 on a 4 foot by 5 foot concrete pad, and a 500
21 gallon propane tank on a 4 foot by 10 foot pad.

22 In the center of the compound is a 170
23 foot high monopole. Proposed antennas at the top,
24 there will be proposed municipal antennas and a
25 microwave dish. This will be for the fire

1 department and public works. In addition, there
2 will be two whip antennas for LCD dispatch at the
3 100 foot level.

4 AT&T is going to install nine panel
5 antennas, 15 remote radio heads, and 3 squid boxes
6 on a mounted triangular platform. The centerline
7 of those antennas will be at elevation 166. The
8 tower will be designed for three future additional
9 carriers at 10 foot intervals below AT&T's
10 installation that will be at 156, 146 and 136.
11 And that is the proposed facility. Thank you.

12 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Burns.

13 Before we get started for the public
14 comment session, just a note on remote public
15 hearings. Remote public hearings are quite
16 different from in-person public hearings for which
17 in-person public hearings members and the public
18 could sign up, step to the podium, and offer their
19 comments. For remote public hearings the public
20 is required to sign up to speak in advance in
21 order to provide the Council staff with the time
22 necessary to facilitate connection precautions and
23 prevent interruptions, or in common terms
24 "bombing" of the proceedings. There are
25 protocols, procedures and consistency measures

1 that are followed as part of the remote public
2 hearing process.

3 As a reminder, written comments may be
4 submitted within 30 days of this public hearing.

5 We will now call on from the list to
6 make a public statement the Honorable Don Lowe,
7 first selectman of the Town of Sherman, followed
8 by Kris Fazzone, Sherman's Volunteer Fire
9 Department.

10 The Honorable Don Lowe.

11 FIRST SELECTMAN LOWE: Thank you, John.
12 John and the sound engineer, can you hear me okay?

13 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, we can hear you
14 fine. Thank you.

15 FIRST SELECTMAN LOWE: Fantastic. I
16 want to thank the Siting Council for being here
17 and meeting on behalf of the Sherman residents.
18 Thank you for the exemplary work that you have
19 done, that your Council does, on behalf of our
20 great state. We are excited here in Sherman at
21 the prospect of finally, after more than ten years
22 of trying, excited here at the prospect of finally
23 getting cell phone connectivity in the southern
24 part of Sherman. So thank you for being here.

25 I fully support this proposal for a

1 cell tower at 16 Coote Hill, and I hope with all
2 my heart that you will approve it. It should be
3 no surprise that I support it because, as First
4 Selectman, I am pledged to the safety and
5 well-being of the town's residents, and this tower
6 greatly increases the safety and well-being of
7 more than 1,200 residents along the Route 37 and
8 Route 39 corridor which has always been a dead
9 zone for connectivity.

10 This tower will hold our emergency
11 transmitting equipment that will tremendously
12 benefit our Sherman Volunteer Fire Department, our
13 resident trooper, public works, and all first
14 responders for emergencies. I don't think I need
15 to tell you how important that is for Sherman.

16 I'm in favor of this tower for the
17 residents who don't have safety and convenience of
18 cell service during car accidents and breakdowns,
19 property fires, weather emergencies, road
20 blockages, and power outages from our
21 all-too-frequent storms. I'm in favor of it for
22 the people who are protected by having a cell
23 phone and cell service to call for emergencies
24 when they are away from their landline. And I'm
25 in favor of the tower for the elderly who want

1 monitoring systems for their personal safety and
2 to stay connected with loved ones. Right now many
3 Sherman seniors can't have these types of services
4 without the connectivity that the tower will
5 provide. And I want our children to live and ride
6 school buses in the southern part of town to have
7 the same emergency protections that children in
8 other parts of Sherman do. I'm very excited about
9 the possibility of all this being fixed, that with
10 this tower a large percentage of Sherman residents
11 will finally enjoy the safety and convenience of
12 cell service that people who live in other parts
13 of Sherman also enjoy.

14 Now, your Council will probably hear
15 from people who ask that the cell tower be placed
16 in a different location. And I don't think I need
17 to remind your Council that 42 sites were
18 carefully considered for tower sites. Each one
19 had advantages, but one by one they were
20 eliminated. Some didn't offer the signal
21 strength, others were environmentally wrong,
22 others were adverse to good aesthetics, and other
23 potential sites were not allowed by the
24 landowners. In particular, there are sites on the
25 Naromi Land Trust property, which has now merged

1 with the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy,
2 these properties are mentioned frequently by
3 individuals who oppose the Coote Hill site. I
4 have spoken with the executive director of the
5 Northwest Land Conservancy on many occasions, and
6 in no way will that organization offer property to
7 place a cell tower on it.

8 Now, the persuasions that your Council
9 will hear on exploring new locations will be
10 couched with expressions of support for cell
11 service and claims that they are being diligent --
12 (TIME ELAPSED)

13 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, First
14 Selectman Lowe. Unfortunately, your time has
15 ended. Thank you.

16 MR. MORISSETTE: We will now turn to
17 Kris Fazzone, Sherman Volunteer Fire Department,
18 who will then be followed by Bill McCann.

19 Mr. Fazzone.

20 KRIS FAZZONE: Hello, my name is -- and
21 again, thank you very much for having this
22 meeting, and thank you for allowing me to speak.
23 As you know, my name is Kris Fazzone. I'm the
24 president of the Sherman Volunteer Fire
25 Department, and I'm, along with Don, I'm very

1 excited that we've reached this point both on a
2 personal and professional level.

3 First, I'm relatively new to Sherman.
4 I've only lived here for about 45 years and have
5 been a member of the Sherman Volunteer Fire
6 Department for nearly 34 of those years. Of those
7 34 years, I've been elected to offices for over 25
8 years, and as I said, I'm the president and have
9 been for a little more than five years now. The
10 reason why I'm giving you some of my history in
11 years is because I love Sherman, and I'm very much
12 a part of Sherman in both my personal and
13 professional life. Having this much time in town
14 gives me a large amount of perspective and
15 appreciation for all aspects of Sherman life.

16 Today I'm speaking on behalf of public
17 safety. As a career paramedic and a 34 year
18 member of the fire department, I can assure you
19 that communication is one of the cornerstones of
20 emergency services. Without communication we
21 don't show up, we're unable to call for more help,
22 we leave ourselves unprotected from rapidly
23 changing situations, and most importantly, we
24 can't protect our citizens.

25 This tower at this location at 16 Coote

1 Hill in the south end of town fills a huge gap for
2 us. We will have radio equipment placed on that
3 tower, as everyone heard, that will help us ensure
4 seamless communication between the SVFD personnel,
5 our dispatch center, public works, Connecticut
6 State Police, and this is only on a radio level.
7 On a medical note, we must have cellular
8 connectivity in order to relay vital EKG
9 interpretations to the hospital in order to
10 appropriately treat patients. This is all done
11 through cellular.

12 Now I'd like to tell you a couple of
13 stories out of the dozens that I've heard and
14 witnessed firsthand in regards to the lack of both
15 cellular and radio communications. We had one
16 incident where we were setting up a landing zone
17 for a helicopter for a severe motorcycle accident.
18 We needed to change the landing zone, for whatever
19 the reason was, and because of poor radio
20 communication and no cellular access we couldn't
21 do it, we couldn't reach the LZ team, and we were
22 forced to send personnel that were operating on
23 the scene that we were at to create a new
24 location. That left us a little shorthanded. Of
25 course, in emergency services we kind of adapt and

1 overcome.

2 Another story. Shortly after 911, a
3 New York City woman had come up to Sherman and was
4 staying with a friend down on the south end of
5 town, down off of 37. She was bit by a bee and
6 had a severe life-threatening allergic reaction.
7 In 2001 we were required to contact medical
8 control. We did this via radio or cell phone, and
9 this was required in order to give her a
10 lifesaving dose of epinephrine. (TIME ELAPSED)

11 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Fazzone. We'll now continue with Bill McCann,
13 followed by Stephen and Loretta Quaranto.

14 Mr. McCann.

15 BILL McCANN: Yes. Hello. Thank you.
16 I'm Bill McCann, chairman of the Sherman
17 Conservation Commission. And I apologize, but I
18 may have misunderstood this public comment period.
19 I'm not actually making a statement. I have a
20 question for the Council. I'll ask the question
21 anyway. And from what I understand from your
22 opening, I won't get an actual answer to that at
23 this point.

24 But usually when a construction permit
25 is approved, our town land use boards will give

1 the permit with some requirements as erosion
2 control or setbacks, et cetera, and they are
3 enforced by the town enforcement officers who will
4 come out to do the monitoring to assure
5 compliance. Since I know that the Council takes
6 precedence over town boards in making the decision
7 to permit, if this project is approved, our
8 biggest concern is that the restrictions that are
9 recommended by DEEP and Fish and Wildlife to
10 protect the environment in that particular area
11 regarding water and habitat, what party would
12 actually do the monitoring to assure compliance.

13 And again, I'm not expecting an answer
14 based on your opening comments, so I yield the
15 floor unless you're going to answer it.

16 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. McCann.
17 As I said in my opening statement, the Siting
18 Council will not be answering questions. However,
19 the Siting Council does have exclusive
20 jurisdiction over the project and has jurisdiction
21 over all matters, including over the environment
22 and the protection of the facilities. Thank you.

23 I will now call on Stephen and Loretta
24 Quaranto, followed by Gail Maletz.

25 LORETTA QUARANTO: Yes. Good evening.

1 Our names are Stephen and Loretta Quaranto. We
2 reside at 14 Coote Hill, the abutting property to
3 the tower site at 16 Coote Hill. We've lived here
4 peacefully for 34 years overlooking one of the
5 most picturesque sites as you enter into the Town
6 of southern Sherman. As residents of Sherman, I
7 want to make it very clear, we always supported
8 our emergency services but strongly oppose where
9 Homeland Towers decides to place this 192 foot
10 tower behind our property for several reasons.

11 We live on a private shared road, not a
12 town road, with eight other residents that will
13 have to bear the financial burden of this project.
14 It is zoned residential, not commercial. The
15 intention of such zoning is to seek protection for
16 the homeowners from commercial development efforts
17 and illegal zoning intrusions. The project will
18 disturb the essential character of the private
19 neighborhood.

20 We are the abutting property owner and
21 will experience downhill runoff and erosion from
22 the site during construction. We will feel the
23 effects of the 124 trees to be removed. When 16
24 Coote Hill was built, we had to put in additional
25 drainage to the back of our property, including a

1 Belgium Block runoff, for water coming off the
2 hill.

3 It was stated there is no visibility of
4 this tower. I beg to differ. I saw the balloon
5 from every window in my house.

6 Our property value will also be
7 affected by the installation of this tower.

8 We have two sets of wetlands that have
9 to be accessed to arrive at the tower site, as
10 well as wild habitat disruptions consisting of
11 spotted salamanders, long-eared bats, and box
12 turtles.

13 I have been in the medical field for 43
14 years. There are concerning health ramifications
15 of 5G. Our health and the health and welfare of
16 our wild habitat will be affected. Please refer
17 to the excellent conservation report and
18 environmental report on your website.

19 In the construction world building
20 projects are shut down immediately and alternative
21 sites are looked for. That is what we are trying
22 to accomplish today. The Coote Hill tower is not
23 the optimal site. Existing cell towers and small
24 cell technology have to be considered, especially
25 in a small rural town like Sherman, population of

1 only 3,800 people, as compared to our surrounding
2 neighbors of New Fairfield and New Milford.

3 In January 2018, we elected a new
4 selectman as well as the town forming a
5 telecommunications committee. Three years have
6 passed and they came up with the same site as they
7 did in 2013. Why wasn't our radio communications
8 report updated at that time? If the town was so
9 concerned about public safety, why did they not
10 supply emergency services to our people via the
11 existing tower, Patterson tower. From that --
12 (TIME ELAPSED)

13 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you.
14 Unfortunately, that concludes the time frame for
15 your comments.

16 We will now move to Gail Maletz and
17 followed by Terri Hahn.

18 Gail Maletz.

19 GAIL MALETZ: Good evening. My name is
20 Gail Maletz. If you've been aware of the many
21 years long issue of lack of cell service in
22 Sherman, you probably know that my husband Steve
23 and I have long been advocates of finding a
24 solution in the interest of public safety. We
25 became especially vocal after the Sandy Hook

1 massacre in 2012 when I was a Newtown teacher. We
2 were Sherman residents for more than 20 years.
3 Our personal experiences during long power
4 outages, flat tires, lack of traction on ice, and
5 the run-in with deer along Route 37, along with
6 our awareness of multiple incidents and accidents,
7 some of which ended in tragedy, served to increase
8 our passion and our involvement.

9 Then in March of 2018, Steve had a
10 serious accident on Route 37, less than a mile
11 from our home, and there was no available cell
12 service to call for help. As seniors, our safety
13 had become an important factor in making life
14 choices, and all of these experiences, at least in
15 part, informed our decision to move from Sherman
16 to Danbury. But our commitment to the safety of
17 our neighbors and friends in Sherman and to those
18 who travel through town continues, and we strongly
19 support this application.

20 Finally, I'd also like to address the
21 recent efforts of those who acknowledge the need
22 for cell service but want a "more suitable" tower
23 location found. As some of you well know, we've
24 been working on this for many years. Initially,
25 Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman was

1 formed, and eventually we were appointed to the
2 Sherman Telecommunications Committee. Where have
3 all of your efforts been since 2013? The Sherman
4 Telecommunications Committee invited you to join
5 us as we sought a solution. You didn't. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. I'll now
8 call on Terri Hahn, followed by Ronney Berinstein.
9 Terri Hahn up next.

10 Terri Hahn, I see you're still on mute.

11 TERRI HAHN: Okay. I'm going to have
12 to hurry up because I only have two minutes.

13 The members of the Sherman
14 Telecommunications Committee, STC, would like to
15 thank the Siting Council for hearing our voices of
16 support today for the application to construct a
17 cell tower filed as Docket No. 499. We
18 established the STC in 2018 to act as a clearing
19 house of information related to cell service in
20 Sherman. We have explored options for the
21 provision of cell service where it was lacking,
22 brought findings and recommendations to the Board
23 of Selectmen, and assisted in raising awareness of
24 safety issues as they relate to the lack of cell
25 service in our town. The work of all stakeholders

1 has been exhaustive.

2 Members of our committee have worked
3 diligently since 2012 when personal experiences
4 with the shootings at Newtown brought a sense of
5 urgency to finding a solution to the lack of cell
6 service in southern Sherman. Nearly a decade
7 later a global pandemic renews the sense of
8 urgency, reminding us that cell service is
9 critical to keeping travelers and residents,
10 especially our most vulnerable seniors, safe,
11 connected and secure.

12 We are here today to represent the many
13 residents in Sherman who are in favor of reliable
14 cell phone service in our town in the underserved
15 area of southern Sherman where travelers enter and
16 exit the town on Routes 37 and 39. Residents and
17 passersby have experienced the helplessness of
18 those involved in accidents on these roads. Our
19 state trooper is hampered in his work here, and
20 our own Sherman Volunteer Fire Department is
21 currently without a home for its emergency
22 communications equipment.

23 With the application on Docket 499 we
24 are on the cusp of a real solution to fill the
25 gaps in coverage that has kept Sherman residents

1 and travelers at risk. We urge you to approve it.
2 Sincerely, STC, Terri Hahn and Zoe Sochor, Don
3 Lowe, Gail Maletz, Al Zeisler. Thank you.

4 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. I will now
5 call on Ronney Berinstein.

6 RONNEY BERINSTEIN: Can you hear me?

7 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, we can. Thank
8 you.

9 RONNEY BERINSTEIN: Hi, I'm Ronney
10 Berinstein. My husband and I live at 13 Coote
11 Hill Road, and we're very concerned about the cell
12 phone tower being so close to us, as Loretta has
13 already stated. No one has mentioned the danger,
14 the impact, us being on a small dirt road. Two
15 cars can't even pass simultaneously. Last week,
16 in fact, there was this huge truck coming down in
17 the opposite direction. Fortunately, my husband
18 was driving because I wouldn't have known what to
19 do. There was no way to back up, either one of
20 us, we stood there. Finally, my husband kind of
21 went a little bit off the road. I was afraid he
22 was going to go into a ditch, but we made it.
23 And, I mean, this is crazy reality. I mean, I
24 can't imagine these big trucks coming and us
25 little cars, the few people that live on this

1 road, I don't know how we're going to deal with
2 it. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Mr. Henry
4 Berinstein, does he have any comments?

5 HENRY BERINSTEIN: I just would like to
6 comment about the water. We live at 13. We abut
7 16. And when they built their house, we had
8 tremendous flooding in our house. They took out
9 80 trees. Now they're going to take out another
10 120, which means that we are going to be flooded
11 again. We are the bottom property on the road.

12 I would also like to tell the Siting
13 Committee that we do have cell phone service
14 regardless of what Mr. Lowe says. We have cell
15 phone service in our house, and most of the people
16 on the road do have cell phone service. And I
17 think that that's important that they understand
18 that we do have cell phone service, that this is
19 mainly for the emergency service, not for the
20 people around there, because I think most of the
21 people can get cell phone service if they go to
22 Verizon instead of using AT&T. That's all I have
23 to say.

24 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you,
25 Mr. Berinstein.

1 I will now call on Zoe Sochor, followed
2 by Peter Kuring.

3 ZOE SOCHOR: So good evening and thanks
4 to the Siting Council for hearing our voices today
5 on Docket No. 499. I'm Zoe Sochor, a long-time
6 resident of Sherman. I joined with others to form
7 the Sherman Telecommunications Committee to help
8 bring about reliable cell service to Sherman. I'm
9 speaking tonight on a personal level though to
10 share the reasons why I was compelled to work with
11 others on this issue.

12 I live on Route 37 south in Sherman on
13 the passing stretch just over the town line from
14 New Fairfield. I've witnessed several accidents
15 over the years, those who have run into a deer,
16 slid on ice in the middle of the night and
17 collided with others, other cars. Some have come
18 to my house to call home and to call for help
19 because they could not get cell service.

20 Aside from being frustrating, each
21 time, as a reminder of the potential danger
22 travelers experience, especially in the middle of
23 the night in the winter without the lifeline that
24 is cell service, each time a storm develops, I
25 cringe because we could be days without power,

1 which means days without cell service to stay
2 connected with work and with family. It's
3 frustrating to me because we've spent years trying
4 to uncover a solution to bring cell service here.

5 The bottom line is that a cell tower is
6 required for transmission of service, but I won't
7 belabor the facts already in front of the Siting
8 Council. Instead, I ask, if not now, when? I'm
9 pretty sure that all parties interested in this
10 issue on both sides have a cell phone. They
11 likely and rarely don't even visually register the
12 telephone poles and lines that run along the roads
13 that we see every day or notice many of the cell
14 towers that bring them the service they do rely
15 on. So with your approval of this application,
16 however, we can finally bring this much-needed
17 service to Sherman. Thank you.

18 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. I will now
19 call Peter Kuring, followed by Roderike Pohl.

20 Mr. Kuring.

21 PETER KURING: Thank you for the
22 opportunity to address the Council. My name is
23 Peter Kuring. My wife and I reside at 5 Coote
24 Hill Road in Sherman. Firstly, I appreciate the
25 value of necessity of reliable wireless

1 communications out of Sherman. I would like to
2 address my comments to Coote Hill Road, the
3 proposed access road to the proposed site. Coote
4 Hill Road is our only vehicular access to Route
5 37. Coote Hill is a narrow, single lane, private
6 right-of-way which was created for a residential
7 purpose and never designed or maintained to
8 support the commercial enterprise proposed by
9 Homeland Towers. It is a mostly unimproved dirt
10 road, prone to water erosion, which services seven
11 homes and two additional landowners. These nine
12 owners are responsible to share equally in the
13 maintenance of a road due to wear and tear and
14 accidental damage.

15 Reference burden. It is entirely
16 unfair that just nine owners should bear the cost
17 of maintaining a road used for a commercial cell
18 tower and which the Town of Sherman has arranged
19 free access and use. It is unfair that nine
20 owners bear the financial cost of maintaining the
21 proposed access road for the life of the lease
22 between 16 Coote Hill Road and Homeland Towers.
23 Neither Homeland Towers nor the Town of Sherman
24 informed the owners before making their sharing
25 agreement, and I feel it's very unfair.

1 Reference safety. The road is very
2 narrow. On some sections there is no room to pass
3 oncoming passenger traffic, the private property,
4 swales, drainage ditches, or Lake Mauweehoo on its
5 direct borders, certainly no room to pass a large
6 construction vehicle or crane during construction
7 on certain sections. What happens during an
8 emergency when one of these large vehicles are
9 encountered on these stretches? There's no way
10 around.

11 Reference erosion. If a vehicle veers
12 off of the road during a period of rain or during
13 winter, the ruts caused immediately form a path
14 for water draining down from the mountain above.
15 This washes the road and must be repaired at whose
16 cost? Any water draining onto the road due to
17 site construction will further add to the erosion
18 complications.

19 So due to financial burdens to just
20 nine owners, safety concerns, and erosion issues,
21 this road is entirely unsuitable to support this
22 venture. I thank you for your time.

23 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Kuring.
24 I will now call upon Roderike Pohl, followed by
25 Patricia Bailey.

1 Mr. Roderike Pohl.

2 RODERIKE POHL: Actually, "Ms."

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Ms. I'm sorry. I
4 apologize.

5 RODERIKE POHL: Yes. I'm a Sherman
6 resident of over 22 years, and I live
7 approximately half a mile from the proposed site.
8 I am certainly high enough to, at its height of
9 altitude, to receive the full effects of this
10 wireless communication network.

11 My concerns center around health issues
12 at this tower site which is very close to Coote
13 hill residents. There are numerous scientific
14 studies detailing increasing cancer rates and
15 neurological symptoms for those within a quarter
16 mile of these towers. In reviewing other studies,
17 symptoms like depression, tremors, headaches,
18 fatigue, sleep disturbances, memory and
19 concentration difficulties have also been
20 documented. Overall, conclusions from all of
21 these research articles advise a distance of at
22 least 500 meters or 1,600 feet from the
23 population, including schools and hospitals,
24 because of adverse reactions to EMF. If it is
25 affecting children who learn at school for a

1 portion of the day, how does that translate to
2 people who are exposed to it for 24 hours a day,
3 seven days a week? There are many houses within
4 this distance so there is reason for concern.
5 Once this tower is fully functional, the
6 continuous exposure to EMF radiation will be in
7 our neighborhood with no chance of turning it off.
8 When these symptoms occur, what are you going to
9 do? Move? I don't know.

10 While I am aware that the current
11 regulations only look at thermal effects of
12 radiation that's emitted from the towers, there is
13 considerable evidence concerning the biological
14 effects, and they have been completely overlooked.
15 These effects are real, and it is time that the
16 Siting Council recognizes these concerns and does
17 something about where these towers are placed.
18 The current guidelines are obsolete and need to be
19 updated to adopt radio frequency emission rules
20 that adequately protect public health. Thank you.

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Ms. Pohl.
22 I will now call Patricia Bailey, followed by Errol
23 Zellner.

24 Patricia Bailey.

25 PATRICIA BAILEY: Thank you. People

1 who moved up here moved up here for the rural
2 area, not for the city services. And the cell
3 towers are right on the edge of being obsolete
4 technology. There's new technology, which I saw
5 on Amazon about three weeks ago, that had a
6 product that you plug into your plug and through
7 the electricity you are able to get cell service.
8 Unfortunately, I see that it's been taken down. I
9 don't know if there were legal issues. I don't
10 know if it didn't, you know, it wasn't up to par,
11 or if they had a problem with Amazon's
12 regulations, but we're right on the edge of
13 changing over to new technology.

14 Also, I want to know who's going to pay
15 to remove the cell tower after it becomes
16 obsolete. I have the feeling that the company
17 will take all the money out of the company and
18 give themselves big bonuses and the taxpayers of
19 Sherman will have to remove the cell tower.

20 So anyway, I'm finished. Thank you.

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. I will now
22 call on Errol Zellner, followed by Tara Clancy.

23 Errol Zellner. Is Errol Zellner
24 available for comments?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. We'll move on
2 to Tara Clancy. Tara Clancy.

3 TARA CLANCY: Hi. Can you hear me
4 okay?

5 MR. MORISSETTE: I can hear you fine.
6 Thank you.

7 TARA CLANCY: Wonderful. Thank you.
8 My name is Tara Clancy, and I live in southern
9 Sherman. And I would just first like to point out
10 I do have connectivity here. Beyond that, I'd
11 like to make two points.

12 The first one is about the safety and
13 well-being that our selectman and Mr. Fazzone and
14 several other people have, you know, addressed.
15 My concern with that is that while we're thinking
16 about the safety and the well-being even for our
17 children on school buses, it really is a
18 short-term focus that we have because, as Patricia
19 just mentioned -- I'm sorry, as Roderike
20 mentioned, there are significant health dangers
21 from being exposed to electromagnetic fields.

22 Now, on that point I was fortunate
23 enough to have a detailed conversation with our
24 selectman. And I definitely appreciate his
25 enthusiasm for increasing the safety and

1 well-being of residents, but when I asked him
2 about EMFs, you know, electromagnetic fields, he
3 was not familiar with that. And that's concerning
4 to me because that tells me that the committee has
5 not investigated this, and it really is, as I
6 said, it means that we have a very short-term
7 focus and we're not looking at the long-term
8 health of our residents and our children in
9 particular.

10 The second thing that I would like --
11 the second point I would like to make is that I
12 moved from southern Fairfield County to Sherman
13 three years ago because of the rural nature of it,
14 and specifically because I wanted reduced exposure
15 to the EMFs for me and my family. So this
16 proposed tower threatened our safety on that
17 level.

18 And as Patricia just pointed out, it
19 really is obsolete technology in the very near
20 future. And we know that federally there was law
21 just passed that 5G towers can be put up without
22 any kind of approval. So I'm not really sure why
23 the town is continuing this undertaking knowing
24 that it will be a very short-term solution that
25 will soon be obsolete. Thank you.

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. I
2 understand that Errol Zellner is not connected to
3 the Zoom hearing. So that concludes the public
4 comment session of this evening's event.
5 Therefore, the Council announces that it will
6 continue the evidentiary session of this public
7 hearing on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 2 p.m. via
8 Zoom remote conferencing. A copy of the agenda
9 for the continued remote evidentiary hearing will
10 be available on the Council's Docket 499 webpage,
11 along with the record of this matter, the public
12 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
13 the remote evidentiary hearing session, and the
14 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
15 Procedures.


16 Please note that anyone who has not
17 become a party or intervenor but who desires to
18 make his or her views known to the Council may
19 file written statements with the Council until the
20 public comment record is closed.

21 Copies of the transcript of this
22 hearing will be filed at the Sherman Town Clerk's
23 Office. I hereby declare the hearing adjourned.
24 And thank you, everyone, for your participation.
25 Good evening.

1 (Whereupon, the public hearing
2 concluded at 7:14 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 37 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the Remote Public Comment Hearing in Re:
7 DOCKET NO. 499, HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC AND NEW
8 CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T APPLICATION
9 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
10 AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE,
11 AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
12 LOCATED AT 16 COOTE HILL ROAD, SHERMAN,
13 CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN
14 MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on May 25, 2021.

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18 

19 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
20 Court Reporter
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