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CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

PARTY STATUS REQUEST FORM

Docket/Petition No. 428 Town/City: ROXBURY

Name: TOWN OF ROXBURY, By BARBARA HENRY, ITS FIRST SELECTMAN

Address: 29 NORTH STREET, P. O. BOX 203

City: ROXBURY

State: CT

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1. Manner in which petitioner claims to be substantially and specifically affected:

- The Town of Roxbury is the Town where AT&T is proposing to submit an application for the two alternate tower locations in residential zones. Both sites will be within the view shed of scenic roads that Roxbury Both sites have scenic roads within the Study areas and the visibility studies show there will be year round visibility of the Tower that is detrimental to the very purpose of the preservation of the vistas from Scenic Roads under Connecticut Gen. Stat. § 7-149a and the Roxbury Ordinances, the Roxbury zoning guidelines for Telecommunication Tower locations, and the Siting Council Guidelines.
- There are Drainage issues that have plagued this one-lane dirt road (Transylvania road) in the past and the addition of the tower with its proposed driveway is expected to only worsen an already bad situation.

2. Contention of the petitioner:

- The Southbury Road location impacts two conservation-type subdivisions that were approved by special permits and designed to protect agricultural land and open space under the Town land use regulations. For example, the photographs in the application show the proposed 170' tower in full view, year round, at the cul-de-sac of Bronson Mountain Road and of the backyards of other owners in these restricted developments. The regulatory purposes of the neighboring special rural residential conservation

protected zones would be jeopardized with the advent of a commercial tower within view.

- The Town has asked for the overall “plan” for future tower locations in Roxbury from AT&T and how this location fits into that plan. We have not received an answer. The application materials indicate that the proposed tower locations will serve only 232 to 370 more people in Roxbury (population 2374- 2008 census) and only a gain in coverage area of 3.4 square miles (Transylvania Road Tower) or 2.13 square miles (Southbury Road Tower) See A T & T Radio Frequency engineering Repot dated June 27, 2012 by SAI. Thus the Tower is located in Roxbury but only tangentially serves Roxbury areas and residents. With this encroachment into the residential zone, the Town would like to be assured that the proposed location(s) is going to provide the added service that AT&T is looking for;
- We have also asked why AT&T cannot spend the money to upgrade of its technology in the manner of Verizon that operates off the present tower located at the Town Transfer Station site with no problems; this would allow A T & T to avoid investing in more infrastructure.
- See Connecticut Siting Council Application Guide for Community Antenna Television and Telecommunication Facilities, Page 5. The application fails to adequately describe the zoning, planned uses and surrounding areas and the incompatibility of the use of both sites on this basis; it does not reflect the zoning guidelines for location of towers other than physical and dimensional requirements.

See attached for detailed discussion.

3. Relief sought by the petitioner:

- a. To be sure that AT&T has vetted all other alternatives in the area for tower location and ultimately put this tower in another location.
- b. To be sure that all drainage issues will be addressed if the Transylvania location is ultimately given the approval by the Siting Council. Absence compliance with concerns on the attached Notice of Intervention, the application should be denied.
- c. To require Tower sharing on the existing Roxbury-owned tower if possible and to further evaluate the feasibility of maximizing the use of existing communications towers, water towers, silos, steeples and other similar buildings, if available, to accommodate new wireless telecommunication antennas in order to reduce the number of towers needed to serve the community;
- d. To avoid the visibility of the Tower from conserved lands and scenic roads.



4. Statutory or other authority therefore; and

Pursuant to CT General Statute §16-50n(a)(2), the Town of Roxbury hereby requests the Connecticut Siting Council to grant it party status in the application and hearing process for proposed application.

5. Nature of evidence that the petitioner intends to present:

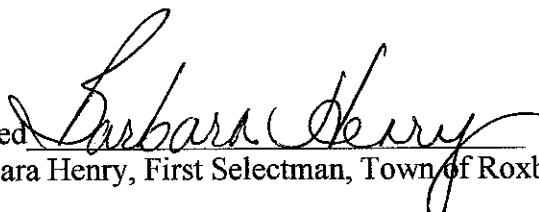
Non-receipt of questions posed to AT&T in question #2 above, failure to satisfactorily set out evidence of need to new Tower in Roxbury that provides very little coverage in Roxbury..

6. Other comments for the Siting Council's consideration:

See attached.

Copies of this request shall be mailed to all participants at least five (5) business days before the date of the hearing.

Signed


Barbara Henry, First Selectman, Town of Roxbury

Date: 08/1/2012

Attachment

cc: R. Dirienzo, Selectman
R. Lowe, Selectman



**Town of Roxbury
Town Hall
29 North Street
Roxbury, CT 06783
Barbara Henry, First Selectman
bhenry@roxburyct.com**

**State of Connecticut
Connecticut Siting Council (CSC)
Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06501
e-mail siting.council@ct.gov; fax (860) 827-2950
Attention: Linda Roberts, Executive Director**

RE: DOCKET NO. 428 – Party Status Request for the Town of Roxbury in New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at one of two sites: Roxbury Tax Assessor Parcel ID #32-008 off of Route 67, Roxbury, Connecticut (“Southbury Road Site”), or 126 Transylvania Road, Roxbury, Connecticut (“Transylvania Road Site”).

Dear Director Roberts:

The purpose of this letter is to outline the interest of the Town of Roxbury and related issues for consideration by the CSC relating to the proposed in **DOCKET NO. 428** by New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) at 126 Transylvania Road, Roxbury CT or Roxbury Tax Assessor Parcel ID #32-008 off of Route 67, Roxbury, Connecticut. As spelled out below, neither of these locations meet the priorities or criteria for siting of the tower set out in the Town of Roxbury Zoning Regulation guidelines and Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Siting Council application requirements include the following:

- (K)** A statement explaining mitigation measures for the proposed facility including:
- (1) Construction techniques designed to specifically minimize adverse effects on natural areas and sensitive areas;
 - (2) Special design features made specifically to avoid or minimize adverse effects on natural areas and sensitive areas, including but not limited to a yield point, if applicable;
 - (3) Establishment of vegetation proposed near residential, recreation, and scenic areas; and
 - (4) Methods for preservation of vegetation for wildlife habitat and screening; and

(5) Other environmental concerns identified by the applicant, the Council, or any public agency, including but not limit to where applicable: Ridgeline Protection Zones, Agricultural Lands, . . . Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species

(L). A description of the proposed site and any alternative sites, including the zoning classification, planned land uses and surrounding areas;

(M) A description of the scenic, natural, historic, and recreational characteristics of the proposed sites and any alternative sites and surrounding areas including but not limited to officially designated nearby hiking trails, nature preserves and scenic roads;

(N) Visibility Analyses of the proposed site area and any alternative site areas including, but not limited to: (1) A view shed analysis consisting of a two-mile radius from visually impacted areas such as residential developments, recreational areas, and historic sites;

(P) A description of efforts to share existing towers, including but not limited to installations on electric transmission poles, or to consolidate telecommunications antennas of public and private services onto the proposed facility including efforts to offer tower space, where feasible, at no charge for space for municipal antennas;

(X) Such information as any department or agency of the state exercising environmental controls may, by regulation, require including (in relevant part) :

1. State Department of Environmental Protection; and local conservation, inland wetland, and planning and zoning commissions with which reviews were conducted concerning the facility, including a copy of any agency position or decision with respect to the facility; and

2. The most recent conservation, inland wetland, zoning, and plan of development documents of the municipality, including a description of the zoning classification of the site

Although the CSC has exclusive jurisdiction over the location of new telecommunication towers, the CSC may take into consideration Roxbury's policies for the location of such towers as evidenced by its zoning regulation guidelines. Section 5.11 of the Roxbury Zoning Regulations ("Z Regs") sets out the guidelines for the location of Telecommunication Towers in Roxbury. Z Regs. § 5.11.21 provides in relevant part:

Siting Council. If any or all of the Towers and Facilities and related structures regulated by this Section 5.11 become subject to the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council, this regulation shall remain in effect to the extent it is



not pre-empted by the statutory Siting Council jurisdiction and even to the extent pre-empted shall serve as a guide to the siting Council as to the factors important to the Town in the location of Towers and related facilities defined under this Section 5.11.

Z Regs. § 5.11.12 ranks the following locations in order of preference for Tower sittings in Roxbury:

- a. The use of municipal lands, with the approval of the Town, which comply with other requirements of this Section 5.11 and where visual impact can be minimized and mitigated, shall be encouraged.
- b. Shared use (co-location) of existing Personal Wireless Service Facilities shall be encouraged.
- c. The use of Repeaters to provide Adequate Coverage without requiring new Tower(s) shall be encouraged.
- d. Clustering of Towers: Applications for Towers adjacent to Existing Towers shall be encouraged, providing the location is suitable (based on the criteria of this Regulation) for such an impact.

Z Regs 5.11.1 sets a tower siting criteria as follows:

- i. Require Tower sharing and the clustering of Personal Wireless Service Facilities where possible; maximize the use of existing communications towers, water towers, silos and other similar buildings, if available, to accommodate new wireless telecommunication antennas in order to reduce the number of towers needed to serve the community;

* * *

- f. Minimize the total number and height of Towers throughout the community;

The application materials do not adequately address the alternatives and criteria set out above. For example, why can't repeaters accomplish the coverage without adding a new Tower. Why can't the applicant locate with shared use on the Town's tower as do other providers. There is insufficient information in the application as to why the applicant has not been able to provide for "sharing and the clustering of Personal Wireless Service Facilities . . . [to] maximize the use of existing communications towers, water towers, silos and other similar buildings . . . to accommodate new wireless telecommunication antennas in order to reduce the number of towers needed to serve the community."

It is general knowledge among the residents of the Town that certain providers (i.e. Verizon) are able to provide adequate service within the Town using the existing location at the Town Transfer Station. The application report states that this station cannot serve the area involved in the application, but there is inadequate evidence as to why this Town Tower could not also serve

the applicant and meet the guidelines set out in the Zoning Regulations. The application merely states "There are fifteen (15) existing communications facilities in Roxbury, Southbury and Woodbury. AT&T already uses a number of these sites. Other existing sites are outside of the site search area and would not provide reliable coverage to the area identified in this Application." It does not say that another shared location could not suffice. See page 12.

Also the applicant states that the area involved does not provide feasible locations for repeaters that are better suited to urban environments. However at the intersection of 67 and 172, the very area involved in this application, there are two churches on two corners, both with steeples.

In addition to subsection Z Regs 5.11.1 i above, Z Regs §5.11.1 in relevant part, provides the following criteria for evaluation of the location of new towers in Roxbury:

a. Preserve the character and appearance of the Town while simultaneously allowing adequate Personal Wireless Services to be developed;

* * *

e. Preserve property values;

* * *

h. Require owners of Towers and Personal Wireless Service Facilities to configure them so as to minimize and mitigate the adverse visual impact of the Towers and Facilities;

* * *

k. Provide Consistency with Roxbury's Plan Conservation and Development with respect to preserving the rural, historic and agrarian character of the land use including protection of the landscape and scenic views consisting of hills, historic settings, streams, trees, meadows, and other natural features;

The Roxbury Zoning Regulation guidelines at §5.11.1 are not anti-tower. These regulations squarely require consistency with Federal Law including The Telecommunications Act of 1996 so as not to unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent Services, to not regulate on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that the regulated Services and Facilities comply with the FCC's regulations concerning such emissions, and to "facilitate" the provision for wireless communication services to residents and businesses in Roxbury.

It turns out that many of the very concerns required to be addressed by the CSC are also part of the Roxbury zoning guidelines. For example, Z Regs §5.11.11 provides in relevant part that Towers and Personal Wireless Service Facilities shall be located so as to minimize the following potential impacts:

a. Visual / Aesthetic: Towers shall, when possible, be sited where their visual impact is least detrimental to areas that possess scenic quality of local, regional or state-wide significance such as:

1. Ridge lines;



2. Connecticut State Forests, Connecticut Natural Area Preserves, Natural Area Inventory Sites
3. Areas permanently preserved by land trusts and similar organizations.
4. Areas marked as "rural" on the State Plan of Conservation and Development set forth at Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 15a-24 et. seq.
5. Roads designated as Scenic Roads pursuant to Connecticut Gen. Stat. Section 7-149a and 13b-31b through 13b-31e.

Thus, the area involved in the proposed tower site, poses many of the same concerns that the Zoning regulation guidelines and POCD address in order to protect the character of the rural-areas of Roxbury affected by this Application. One of the conservation strategies in the POCD page 8 is to: "Preserve key scenic views and areas within Roxbury." As set out above, The Siting council guidelines provide for a description of the scenic characteristics of the proposed sites and any alternative sites and surrounding areas including . . . nature preserves and scenic roads. The Application report illustrates some areas where the tower may be visible but fails to discuss the preservation of scenic roads, scenic views and impacts on conservation areas. The visibility studies indicate that the tower will be seen from the Bronson Conservation Subdivision and from other roads that Roxbury has designated as Scenic Roads pursuant to Connecticut Gen. Stat. § 7-149a and the Town's ordinances. A photograph provided by the Applicant illustrates a substantial visual impact at the Bronson Road location; the conservation lots abut this road.

The CSC application must include: "E. A description of the proposed site and any alternative sites, including the zoning classification, planned land uses and surrounding areas;"
The application at pages 17-19, states:

Pursuant to the Council's Application Guide, included in this section is a narrative summary of the consistency of Candidates A and B with the local municipality's zoning and wetland regulations and plan of conservation and development. A description of the zoning classification of each site and the planned and existing uses of each proposed site location are also detailed in this Section.

See CSC Application Guide for Community Antenna Television and Telecommunication Facilities, Page 5. The application fails to adequately describe the zoning, planned uses and surrounding areas and the incompatibility of the use of both sites on this basis; it does not reflect the zoning guidelines for location of towers other than physical and dimensional requirements. The only information is that the general description that the proposed sites are in residential Zone C. Thus, the report does not consider that the Southbury Road site adjoins on one side the only "Conservation Subdivision"¹ development in Roxbury ("Bronson

¹ 2005 Revision to Z Regs. §6.2.5, changed "Cluster Subdivision" to Conservation Subdivision).

Mountain”) and on the other side one of the only Interior Residence Zone developments (“High Meadow”)-- the precursor to the current Large Lot Interior Zone. Both of these development require both a subdivision approval and special permit which include incentives (to allow an increased number of interior lots in exchange for large lots developed on private roads with easements or deeds to land trusts of substantial conservation/agricultural permanently preserved areas; according to Z Regs. § 16.2, the purpose for this regulation is to provide pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 8.2 and 8.18, cluster development to “ assure the conservation of land by taking advantage of the natural features of the tract so as to leave substantial unfragmented areas (at least 33.3% of the 30-50 acres) as permanently preserved open space area/agricultural lands that are free of building lots. Z Regs. § 16.3 sets the conservation purposes for the Conservation Subdivision development as follows, to:

- a. Permanently conserve and preserve land to assure that its development will best maintain or enhance the appearance, character, natural beauty and scenic views of an area;
- b. Preserve land for park and passive recreation purposes;
- c. Preserve or create prime farmland and unique agricultural features such as orchards and vineyards;
- d. Protect streams, rivers, ponds, and their associated stream belts, and other wildlife habitats, wetlands as natural resources and environments, and to avoid flooding, erosion and water pollution, and/or;
- e. Preserve natural features along roadways so as to maintain their existing rural character and the rural character of the community.

The very purpose for these special rural residential conservation protected zones is jeopardized with the advent of a commercial tower. The tower site in the Southbury Road location is sandwiched between these conservation developments of High Meadow and Bronson; the visibility/viewshed analysis submitted with the application concludes that the 170’ tower is visible year round from Bronson Mountain Road cul-de-sac in the heart of the adjoining development (See attachment 3c, page 5, and Photographic Simulation View 9 showing the Tower clearly in view from the end of Bronson Mountain Road.) This impairs the very rural character and scenic views that the conservation subdivision development was approved to permanently maintain. We see nothing in the application that deals with or substantially mitigates the impact on this special preservation scheme in the area of the proposed Southbury Road tower site.

The Zoning guidelines for telecommunication towers provide areas where towers should not be located. These include the habitat of any State-listed Rare or Endangered Wildlife or Rare Plant Species, within five hundred (500’) feet of a local state or federally designated scenic road, and on property designated as a scenic ridgeline pursuant to the Planning Commission approved Plan of Conservation and Development. These provisions are parallel to application requirements of the CSC referenced above.

With this Application, the supporting materials confirm that the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base prepared by the CT DEEP shows the Eastern Box turtle, a State Species of Special Concern located in the vicinity of both the proposed Southbury Road tower site and the Transylvania Road site (Attachment 3d, VHB Memorandum from Dean Gustafson, Senior Environmental Scientist; Attachment 4d DEEP letter to Dean Gustafson)..



See Connecticut Siting Council Application Guide for Community Antenna Television and Telecommunication Facilities, Page 5 provides for the application to provide:

F. A description of the scenic, natural, historic, and recreational characteristics of the proposed site and any alternative sites and surrounding areas including but not limited to officially designated nearby hiking trails, nature preserves and scenic roads;

G. Visibility Analyses of the proposed site area and any alternative site areas including, but not limited to: 1. A viewshed analysis consisting of a two-mile radius from visually impacted areas such as residential developments, recreational areas, and historic sites;

The "Study" in the visibility reports, indicates that East Flagg Swamp Road and Flag Swamp Road in Roxbury are locally-designated scenic roads that are contained within the two-mile radius visibility "study area;" there is also seasonal visibility to Upper Grassy Hill, a locally designated scenic road as documented in the Attachment 4 VHB Visibility Study.

The Transylvania Road Tower Site is located off of Transylvania road, a rural dirt road, maintained by the Town for rural residential use. The VHB Visibility Study in Attachment 4c, indicates that there are six locally designated scenic roads that extend into the 2 mile radius Study Area, including Flag Swamp Road, Grassy Hill Road, Lower Country road, Tophet Road and Welton Road. Documented year-round visible locations are Grassy Hill Road. A designated Scenic Road in Roxbury, "open fields" in the vicinity of Grassy Hill Road and Squire Road, 3 residences on Squire Road, 3 residences on Grassy Hill road, 4 other residences in Roxbury, as well as private properties to Northwest and South. The report states that the photos of the balloon test were taken from "public roads" but there are obviously impacted private roads to the South in the location of the Southbury Road site, as discussed above

The Z Regs Tower guidelines reference and require consistency with The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for tower locations. An integral theme of the Roxbury POCD is "Protecting the rural character of Roxbury, its neighborhoods, and valued natural and open space resources." See POCD, Amendment, Section 3 "Vision." These are not idle words in Roxbury, but rather the very essence of what attracts people to live and stay in Roxbury. The POCD section entitled "TELECOMMUNICATIONS Tasks" looks to CSC approvals to require "co-location by other service providers to the extent technically feasible;" this applies to the existing town owned tower and "a Town-wide plan demonstrating the need for any new telecommunications facility at any proposed location."

The POCD at page 56, references the then proposed and now existing town-owned tower at the transfer station on Lower County Road which was paid for by the Town to provide "reasonable service throughout Roxbury." The POCD predicts that that additional facilities are not likely to be warranted within the 10 year planning period, however, the 2010 amendment to the POCD did

not amend this statement; the town's tower complies with the POCD by providing for the allowance of co- location by other service providers. AT & T should show the CSC that it has exhausted all technologically feasible improvements to allow co-location on the shared tower, before clearing and erecting a 170' tower at another site in a residential area surrounded by protected conservation areas; at all times, efforts to protect Roxbury's rural character, ridgelines, and vistas should be a major consideration. The conclusory statement at page 11 of the Application does not satisfactorily explain why the co-location is impossible.

The zoning discussion in the application mentions the requirement at Section 5.11.10d that Equipment shelter and accessory buildings shall be no more than 12' in height but fails to discuss the remainder of the Section 5.11.10d requirement that:

Whenever possible, the buildings shall be joined or clustered so as to appear as one building. Any building shall be designed to be in harmony with the surrounding neighborhood properties on the site and impact that the tower will have on these resources. If located in a residential zone, the buildings shall be designed to appear residential. The buildings shall be no larger than necessary to accomplish the functions required.

Although the above requirements do not prevent the location of a tower, but rather deal with the external impact, the application could comply with the standard to make the equipment shelter as small as possible and to design it to appear residential in this rural residential zone. The Plans included show a rectangular box that does not even attempt to meet this standard.

Similarly, the application discussion fails to mention Section 5.11.1i that provides:

If primary coverage (greater than fifty percent (50%) from proposed Personal Wireless Service Facility is outside Roxbury then permit may be denied unless the Applicant can show that they are unable to locate within the Town which is primarily receiving service from the proposed Facility.

Obviously the permit is from the Siting Council, not the Roxbury Zoning Commission, but the application materials indicate that the proposed tower locations will serve only 232 to 370 more people in Roxbury (population 2374- 2008 census) and that only a gain in coverage area of 3.4 square miles (Transylvania Road Tower) and 2.13 square miles (Southbury Road Tower) results. See A T & T Radio Frequency engineering Report dated June 27, 2012 by SAI. Thus the Towers are not poised to even primarily service Roxbury where the tower is proposed.

The Northwestern Council of Governments (regional planning agency) 2009 Plan of Conservation and Development observes that "Cell phones operate on a line of sight basis. The Region with its many narrow valleys and steep sided hills does not lend itself to line-of-sight technology." Page 17 This Plan identifies the very concerns that Roxbury has regarding the "visual impact on the Region" of telecommunication towers. "The challenge is to accommodate the towers without degrading the Region's scenic quality. Ways of meeting this challenge include camouflaging the towers, requiring multiple antennas on a single tower, lower towers



and careful site selection. Tower location is intrinsically site specific. A tower location that may provide excellent coverage to an underserved area may also mar one of the Region's many iconic vistas." Id. Page 18. The is a challenge that should be met.

Town of Roxbury

Barbara Henry
First Selectman

Cc The attached service list.

This is to certify that a copy of the attached correspondence was sent to all parties on the Service List for Docket 428 on August 1, 2012.

Date: July 27, 2012

Docket No. 428
 Page 1 of 1

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Applicant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC	Daniel M. Laub, Esq. Christopher B. Fisher, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14 th Floor White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 761-1300 (914) 761-5372 fax cfisher@cuddyfeder.com dlaub@cuddyfeder.com Michele Briggs AT&T 500 Enterprise Drive Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3900 michele.g.briggs@cingular.com
<i>Intervenor</i> (Approved on July 26, 2012)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	Bronson Mountain Farm Homeowners Association	John W. Knuff, Esq. Hurwitz, Sagarin, Slossberg & Knuff, LLC P.O. Box 112 Milford, CT 06460 203-877-8000 JKnuff@hssklaw.com