

Town of Northumberland
Public Hearing
June 4, 2009

Supervisor Willard Peck called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:00 PM. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck, Councilman Paul Bolesh, Councilman Daniel Gale and Councilman George Hodgson. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant was absent.

Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy and Town Attorney Douglas Ward.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive the public's comments on proposed Local Law #2 of 2009 – A Local Law establishing a temporary moratorium on the further consideration or approval by the Northumberland Town Planning Board of any proposed construction of cell towers, communication towers, or radio antennas. The proposed Local Law reads as follows:

Section 1

The Town of Northumberland is considering updates to its comprehensive plan with the intention of subsequently enacting revisions of its existing zoning ordinance. Among the considerations regarding development in the Town are the protection of the community's agricultural character, open space, aesthetic and other natural resources. Tall, pole or lattice type structures such as cell towers, communication towers, radio towers and similar structures could adversely affect these important resources if they are not properly located and sited in the Town.

Section 2

There is enacted a temporary moratorium on the further consideration or approval by the Northumberland Town Planning Board of any proposed Construction of cell towers, communications towers, radio towers or similar pole or lattice structures within the Town. This moratorium shall continue for a period of six (6) months from the effective date of this local law.

Section 3

This local law shall take effect immediately

Supervisor Willard Peck stated roughly two years ago, the Town of Northumberland looked at updating the town's Cell Tower Regulations. Surrounding towns have updated their Regulations. The Town of Saratoga and the Town of Fort Edward both have cell towers being proposed in their towns. Supervisor Peck stated since the Town of Northumberland never finished updating our policy we need to address this. By enacting a temporary moratorium, the town will have adequate time to update our Cell Tower Regulations. At this point, Supervisor Peck opened it up for comments.

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James Heber, Planning Board Member, stated he believed there was already language in the Zoning Book regarding Cell Towers. Mr. Heber thought they were allowed by Special Use Permit in the Industrial Zone. Supervisor Peck stated there was language in the Zoning Book, but County Planning around two years ago came up with additional language. Mr. Heber felt Cell Towers should be by a Planned Unit Development which would have both the Town Board and Planning Board reviewing and approving any cell tower being proposed in the Town of Northumberland. Councilman George Hodgson stated he would like to see the applicant prove that he has explored all alternatives in siting a cell tower in the Town of Northumberland. Susan Martindale, Planning Board Member, stated she was in favor of a temporary moratorium. Supervisor Willard Peck stated he received a call from Allen Wood, Goff Road, regarding the proposed Local Law. Supervisor Peck stated the Town Board was not against Cell Towers but wanted to make sure the Town had control over where they would be sited.

There were no comments from the public. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 7:20 PM to adjourn the Public Hearing. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk