

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
MINUTES THURSDAY MAY 26, 2011
2ND FLOOR TOWN HALL AT 5 PM

PRESENT: Tucker Hubbell (Chair), Bob Schwier, Eric Whitman, Tony Higgins, Nancy Cole

ABSENT: Toni Cohen, Larry Schubert

ALSO PRESENT: Carl Gehring for Verizon

BUSINESS

- The minutes of May 12, 2011 were approved as written.

PRE-APPLICATION DISCUSSION

5:00 As required by Section 8.8-6 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaws, the Zoning Board of Appeals had a pre-application discussion with a representative for Verizon concerning a future application for a Special Permit to put in a new generator and fuel tank as part of the equipment for Verizon's installation at the Fire Tower. Notice of a public hearing for the application will be duly advertised and notified as required by M.G.L. 40A after a formal application is received and a hearing date has been set. Map 12, Lot 51, 51 Fire Tower Rd, RU District and Special Places District.

Carl Gehring gave a presentation of what they want to do at the Firetower at this point. He explained that at a future time he will be talking to the Board about swapping antennas at the tower; they would be a needed upgrade and would look the same. Carl explained that a generator on the site had previously been permitted. As part of a 1999 Special Permit from the Board, Verizon was allowed a new generator. They never did put one in, but rather installed an Appleton plug for an emergency generator on a trailer. This had not been thought through as one would have had to be brought to the Island in case of a power outage and outages are caused by bad weather and maybe the boats, etc would not be running. There had been an old generator on the site, but it has been removed, and no one is sure who originally put it in. Verizon never used it.

In 2002 a Special Permit was granted for new panel antennas and a shed. Again a new generator was asked for in the narrative, but only the old generator was shown on the plans. A new generator was not discussed in the written decision. They propose to install a modern 30 Kw propane generator and a propane tank, which will have to be 10 feet away from the generator, meaning a bump-out of the equipment fencing. The generator and the 2 air conditioners (cycling on and off) will be insulated, and the fence will be blanketed in special material that will muffle sound and screen the equipment. There will be no net increase in sound. The generator will be run every week for one half hour. The Board will condition a certain time frame.

Carl enumerated many sections of the Zoning Bylaw under which his application could be heard. The bumping out of the fence may need setback relief. The Board said that the application need only be heard under the Wireless Section. Carl will submit an application. He asked if he could bring up the subject of swapping out the antennas at the generator/tank hearing. Yes. Carl talked about Verizon's search for a site in West Tisbury for a new pole. He is the zoning guy not the real estate guy he said, so does not know of any acquired sites. He showed the Board photos of pine tree towers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Submitted by Julie Keefe, Admin.

