

**TOWN OF KENSINGTON
HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, August 24, 2022**

Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Town Hall. The meeting was posted on the town's website, so the public was able to attend.

Attending: Lynne Monroe, Chair; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer and Selectmen's Representative; Frank Whittemore; Steven Mallory; Alan Tuthill; Joni Praded

Absent: Meghan Gross, Secretary; Elaine Kaczmarek

Guests: Frank Parisi, representing Vertex Tower Assets

Mr. Parisi addressed the Board and presented the Vertex Tower Assets project. Vertex is a wireless infrastructure developer. Cell companies partner with them.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Minutes:

The minutes from the June 22, 2022 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. There were no minutes from the July 27, 2022 meeting as there was no quorum present, so meeting was not held.

Addition to Agenda:

1. Wireless Tower Proposal. Lynne reported that she was notified on Monday, August 22, 2022 that Heritage Commission comments were expected within the week on a wireless tower project proposed for 184 South Road. She did not receive prior email notice or the certified letter that was accepted on her behalf at the Town Hall until Monday. She will check in to see what the issue was so that she gets future notices by email and also gets notification of any mail signed for on her behalf at the town offices.

Lynne obtained Vertex's August 21, 2022 submission package to the NH Division of Historical Resources State Historic Preservation Office and circulated it to the commission members for review prior to the meeting. A copy of that package is attached to these meeting minutes. Vertex Tower Assets representative Frank Parisi attended the meeting to present findings about the project's potential impacts on historical resources and address questions.

As that package explains, Vertex Towers, LLC proposes to construct a wireless facility at 184 South Road in Kensington, New Hampshire (Assessor's ID 2-2). Vertex has notified the Heritage Commission in compliance with the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for the

Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. pt.1 app. C § V(C)). The company is seeking comments related to the proposed project's potential effects on historic properties. The August 21, 2022 package reviewed by committee members describes the Area of Potential Effect (APE) in both Kensington and South Hampton. Potential effects were analyzed by Lucas Environmental, LLC, based in Quincy, MA.

Mr. Parisi described the proposed facility, which will include panel antennas mounted on top of a 180-foot tall monopole tower. This tower will be about 150 feet from an existing Seabrook tower. Associated telecommunications equipment will be located outside at the base of the structure within a 50-foot-by-50-foot fenced compound. The proposed location is the Rozencrantz facility. Mr. Parisi noted that the company is nearly done with due diligence and is hoping to start construction soon and complete it by winter. They are hoping to expedite review in order to get started. He also noted that three residences across the street are historic and were identified as areas of potential impact and that abutters got notice. (Steven Mallory, present at the meeting and an abutter as well as owner of one of the properties of interest, noted he did not get notice. Mr. Parisi said this is because he is not a direct abutter; he is located across the street.)

Discussion ensued on the APEs. Among the questions considered: Are the views of/from nearby historically significant landscapes or property significant and if so, are they affected? Lynne asked why the chosen range for APEs was limited to a half mile; often it is a mile or more. Mr. Parisi replied that this was because there was an existing tower at the site already. Lucas Environmental surveyed potential impacts on five properties. The commission discussed the results summarized in this table on the report:

Table 2. Determination of Effect

Property	SR/NR	Determination	Explanation of Determination	Plate Number
Private Residence 191 South Road	No	Potential Effect	The property is located within the APE. The monopole will be visible from the structure; therefore, the installation has the potential to have an effect on this resource.	1,2
Private Residence 188 South Road	No	Potential Effect	The property is located within the APE. The monopole will be visible from the structure; therefore, the installation has the potential to have an effect on this resource.	3,4
Private Residence 177 South Road	No	Potential Effect	The property is located within the APE. The monopole will be visible from the structure; therefore, the installation has the potential to have an effect on this resource.	5,6
Private Residence 173 South Road	No	No Effect	The property is located within the APE. Due to vegetation and topography, the monopole will not be visible from the property, therefore the installation will have no effect on this resource.	7,8,9
Private Residence 12 Highland Road	No	No Effect	The property is located within the APE. Due to vegetation and topography, the monopole will not be visible from the structure, therefore the installation will have no effect on this resource.	10, 11

Steven noted the nearby farm field on the border of Highland and South Road is also historically significant, as is a field across the street. Lynne noted that she has called to ask when the DHR will do its review. Mr Parisi said they usually take about 30 days but that Vertex has requested an expedited decision from them. The question before the Heritage Commission is whether it wants to make comments to the DHR for its review. (Note-NHDHR was copied on the Heritage Commission response to the application.)

Questions about build time and facility operation were addressed. Build time is approximately six weeks, though it may be shorter since they don't have to build access roads. After construction, the facility is unmanned; so there will be monthly checkups only.

Mr. Parisi left the meeting. The committee then discussed whether there were any comments that should be submitted to the state. It was agreed by all that the potential adverse effects were effects that were already generally present due to the existing tower and facility.

Steven made a motion to accept the evaluation and recommendations as described in the proposal presented this evening. Vote was taken. All approved.

Decision: No objections will be raised by the Heritage Commission to the proposal as presented. Lynne will send notice of decision to the selectmen and others tomorrow.

Old Business

1. **Cemetery News.** Discussion tabled for evening.
2. **Old Home Days.** Lynne reported on walking tours and noted that it was difficult to bring people through parts of the town center without sidewalks or walking paths. Lynne will ask DOT about what would be involved for just simple paths, and crosswalks. The lack of these remains a deterrent to use of the buildings in town center.
3. **Grange.** The Grange is town-owned property and the town wants to explore uses or, potentially, a sale. Potential suggestions for use were discussed. They included a community center for folks to hang out, a museum with farm things; an agricultural center; a location for a periodic town farmers markets or seed swaps. It was also suggested the Grange could be the site of a town-wide potluck meal following a potential Thanksgiving service at the Union Meeting House.
4. **Town Hall Sign.** The new sign has been installed.
5. **Union Meetinghouse.** Lynne reported that the trustees of the Union Meeting House have submitted an LCHIP application and they also held two services in August.

New Business

1. **Carpenter Shed Project.** The new owner of York Field Farm on Drinkwater Road has agreed to have the shed that was painted with a mural by Harlow Carpenter removed from the property rather than destroyed. Barbara Carpenter has agreed to cover the expense of relocating it. Now we need to confirm its relocation site. The town park or Alnoba were discussed as options. Next steps: The commission will approach Alnoba and park trustees about relocation.
2. **Interiors.** The commission surveyed three properties recently.

Adjournment Frank motioned to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Bob seconded. All approve.

