

Kim DeINigro

From: Judy Nolan [judynolan@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2006 3:15 PM
To: Planning Board
Cc: Board of Selectmen; Planning Department
Subject: Proposed Cell Phone Tower

Ms. Kristin Alexander,

Please see the attached document regarding the cell phone tower matter.

Thanks,

Jim & Cathy Monahan

September 26, 2006

Gregory Niemyski
Chairman of Planning Board
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We understand that attorneys for OMNIPOINT (T-Mobile) have requested a continuance of their application to erect a Wireless Communication Facility on Residentially Zoned land owned by the Church of the Good Shepherd. We further understand that this request will be routinely granted.

We also wish to say that the staff of the Planning Department have been readily available for discussions and have been fully responsive when we have sought relevant documents. We thank you and them for this.

We have learned in the process that Wireless Communications Facility applications can only be turned down based on substantial evidence provided in written form. It appears to us that neither the Planning Department nor the Planning Board intends to protect the character of the neighborhood around the Church of the Good Shepherd by developing or assembling in proper written form reasons why this application should be turned down.

Perhaps we are wrong in this conclusion. So we ask you this: please give us a simple yes or no as to whether our conclusion is correct.

In any event we intend to either develop substantial evidence and provide it to the Planning Board for proper assembly or we will do a more complete job ourselves. Presently we are dealing with a phantom application as who knows how many changes may show in a revised application to be presented by October 24, 2006.

Because the burden is on us, in whole or in part, to present substantial evidence in written form we cannot do the necessary work on a phantom application; nor can we do the necessary work in an on-the-fly basis with an ever changing application. We will thus find it unreasonable if our two requests here after stated are denied.

Our first request is that the applicant provide to the Planning Board an application to be made final by action of Planning Board. It is self evident that we cannot provide substantial evidence in written form if the application presents a moving target; thus the need for a final application.

Our second request is that after an application is deemed to be final by the Planning Board we are given a full copy and are given three months to provide substantial evidence in written form. The applicant has had the opportunity to work on this matter for several months with their requests accommodated in an appropriate manner by the Planning Board and the Planning Department. We cannot be both required to provide substantial evidence in written form and not be given ample time to develop it and organize it for presentation to the Planning Board. We assure you that our response will be substantial as we fully intend to stay with this matter.

Gregory Niemyski
Page2.

We further believe our two requests should be considered in concert with the applicants request for continuance. If the applicant is receiving a one month extension in a routine manner, which we do not oppose, we believe it is reasonable to consider our schedule related requests at the same time. We do oppose the proposed December 14, 2006 decision deadline as it is inconsistent with granting us ample time to provide substantial evidence in written form.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim and Cathy Monahan
14 Arlington Street
Acton, MA 01720
On behalf of concerned abutters
and concerned citizens

cc: Planning Department
Board of Selectmen

Kim DelNigro

From: Tom Meusel [tmeusel@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2006 5:56 PM
To: Planning Board; Board of Selectmen
Subject: Residential Cell Tower

Hello, I recently learned of the special permit for a cell tower at The Church of the Good Shepard at the corner of Newtown Rd and Arlington. I'm very concerned about this tower going up in a residential neighborhood. It sets a terrible precedent for all neighborhoods in Acton and demonstrates that any neighbor, in this case a church, can put their monetary interests ahead of their neighbors' and their neighbors' children.

I'm sure with proper planning and research, T-Mobile can find many other locations along route 2 that would resolve their dropped calls issue. In fact, I would hope the town could find town land in an industrial zoned area for such a structure so that the town could benefit from the fees paid by T-Mobile.

I trust that when the next Planning Board meeting convenes on this topic you will decline this permit and not allow the cell tower to move forward.

Regards, Tom.

Tom Meusel
617-438-7210 (mobile)
tmeusel@comcast.net

9/26/2006

Kim DelNigro

From: Sun, Li (Horizon Mgmt, IT) [Li.Sun@thehartford.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2006 10:47 AM
To: Planning Board
Subject: Cell Tower Permit @Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road

Dear Acton Planning Board:

Please accept our petition (attached) with other neighbors of the Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road to refuse the cell tower "special permit" request at that location, too.

Thanks, Li Sun and Xiao Dong (3B Lincoln Dr., Acton, MA 01720)

<<To_the_Town_of_Acton_Planning_Board.doc>>

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To the Town of Acton Planning Board:

We, the undersigned neighbors of the Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road, hereby petition you to refuse the cell tower "special permit" request at that location. There are many reasons for our opposition, ranging from practical to aesthetics to the negative impact on housing values. To review these in detail:

1. **Insufficient public notice.** Over the past few weeks, word of this proposal has spread basically word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor. Many neighbors couldn't believe they hadn't known about this proposal, or about the first planning board meeting on Aug 22. Prior to the first meeting, only direct abutters had been notified. In our opinion, this is a neighborhood issue encompassing hundreds of homes, not just the dozen or so abutters.
2. This is the first cell tower going up in a **100% residential** Acton neighborhood. This tower will be completely out of character within our neighborhood. We are further concerned about any low-level persistent buzzing or humming noises associated with the tower - as this neighborhood is 100% residential, this noise could become the background noise at several abutting homes.
3. Our understanding is that this proposal is for a Monopole style Cell tower, which will be 100 feet tall, located in a 1,400 square foot clearing behind the Church. Particularly in the winter (but year round for many neighbors), this will become part of our normal backyard views. **Aesthetically this is unacceptable.**
4. There is much debate on the health issues related to cell towers (and our understanding is that the telecommunications providers themselves prefer not to build a tower within 1,000 feet of schools). We also understand that, due to federal law regarding utilities, the unknown health issues may not be used as a reason to block a cell tower. However, on a more practical basis, this broadly perceived health impact will have a direct and hugely negative **impact on property values.** In these times of declining home prices and rising real estate inventories, who wants to give buyers a reason to look elsewhere?
5. **Unnecessary duplication of towers.** We believe there is another cell tower already scheduled to be built just 2 miles from this Church of the Good Shepard location - the other tower to be built right on Route 2 by a corporate office park near Central Street. This office park seems a sensible location designed for maximum benefit of the many people and businesses clustered around Route 2. Even if a second tower is "optimal" from T-Mobile's point of view, the fact that there will be a tower in such close proximity adds to the argument against putting another one in a residential neighborhood.
6. **Town-wide planning.** As taxpayers, we believe that cell tower access points should be a town resource. By allowing not-for-profits to capture these profits, we are throwing away a valuable town resource. In a town that struggles constantly with budget overrides, this seems like poor husbandry of our town resources. Town wide planning would also allow for optimal placement of cell towers, rather than a patchwork created by random entities willing to lease their land.
7. Also on the town resource front, one of the primary abutters is the Acton school district. The town of Concord just turned down a cell permit application earlier this year, as they did not want the tower to impact future development potential. Allowing the Church of the Good Shepard to proceed allows them to reduce the value of one of our town resources.

As awareness of this issue spreads, our opposition is growing. If passed, this special permit will set a dangerous precedent, with corporate interests placed ahead of those town residents. Please join us in opposing the placement of this cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepard.

Please sign below to support this petition against the special permit for a cell tower at Church of the Good Shepard.

Name

Street Address

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Kim DeNigro

From: Karen Sullivan [kpsullivan@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2006 7:58 AM
To: Planning Board
Subject: Against Cell Tower at Church of the Good Shepard

To the Planning Board,

We are against the installation of a cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepard for the reasons noted in the attached.

Karen & Brian Sullivan
28 Lincoln Drive, Acton

9/25/2006

To the Town of Acton Planning Board:

We, the undersigned neighbors of the Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road, hereby petition you to refuse the cell tower "special permit" request at that location. There are many reasons for our opposition, ranging from practical to aesthetics to the negative impact on housing values. To review these in detail:

1. **Insufficient public notice.** Over the past few weeks, word of this proposal has spread basically word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor. Many neighbors couldn't believe they hadn't known about this proposal, or about the first planning board meeting on Aug 22. Prior to the first meeting, only direct abutters had been notified. In our opinion, this is a neighborhood issue encompassing hundreds of homes, not just the dozen or so abutters.
2. This is the first cell tower going up in a **100% residential** Acton neighborhood. This tower will be completely out of character within our neighborhood. We are further concerned about any low-level persistent buzzing or humming noises associated with the tower - as this neighborhood is 100% residential, this noise could become the background noise at several abutting homes.
3. Our understanding is that this proposal is for a Monopole style Cell tower, which will be 100 feet tall, located in a 1,400 square foot clearing behind the Church. Particularly in the winter (but year round for many neighbors), this will become part of our normal backyard views. **Aesthetically this is unacceptable.**
4. There is much debate on the health issues related to cell towers (and our understanding is that the telecommunications providers themselves prefer not to build a tower within 1,000 feet of schools). We also understand that, due to federal law regarding utilities, the unknown health issues may not be used as a reason to block a cell tower. However, on a more practical basis, this broadly perceived health impact will have a direct and hugely negative **impact on property values.** In these times of declining home prices and rising real estate inventories, who wants to give buyers a reason to look elsewhere?
5. **Unnecessary duplication of towers.** We believe there is another cell tower already scheduled to be built just 2 miles from this Church of the Good Shepard location - the other tower to be built right on Route 2 by a corporate office park near Central Street. This office park seems a sensible location designed for maximum benefit of the many people and businesses clustered around Route 2. Even if a second tower is "optimal" from T-Mobile's point of view, the fact that there will be a tower in such close proximity adds to the argument against putting another one in a residential neighborhood.
6. **Town-wide planning.** As taxpayers, we believe that cell tower access points should be a town resource. By allowing not-for-profits to capture these profits, we are throwing away a valuable town resource. In a town that struggles constantly with budget overrides, this seems like poor husbandry of our town resources. Town wide planning would also allow for optimal placement of cell towers, rather than a patchwork created by random entities willing to lease their land.
7. Also on the town resource front, one of the primary abutters is the Acton school district. The town of Concord just turned down a cell permit application earlier this year, as they did not want the tower to impact future development potential. Allowing the Church of the Good Shepard to proceed allows them to reduce the value of one of our town resources.

As awareness of this issue spreads, our opposition is growing. If passed, this special permit will set a dangerous precedent, with corporate interests placed ahead of those town residents. Please join us in opposing the placement of this cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepard.

Please sign below to support this petition against the special permit for a cell tower at Church of the Good Shepard.

Name

Street Address

1. Karen & Brian Sullivan 28 Lincoln Drive, Acton
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Kim DelNigro

From: Debbie Wesson [wesson5@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2006 10:43 PM
To: pb@acton-ma.gov.
Cc: Board of Selectmen; DEBBIE WESSON
Subject: NO TO CELL TOWER ON ARLINGTON ST./NEWTOWN ROAD

To the members of the Planning Board:

We are dismayed and deeply concerned that a cell tower would even be considered in the midst of a residential neighborhood. We have lived on Newtown Road for over 25 years, close to the Church of the Good Shepard. We believe that a cell tower would significantly detract from the rural setting, and the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. Furthermore, a cell tower in this location will certainly have negative impact on our property value, reducing the desirability of our homes. Placing a tower in this neighborhood will be detrimental to the quality of life in the area, disrupting the scenic beauty of this area, both by being unsightly and noisy.

Although one can understand that the Church will benefit financially from leasing their land for a tower, surely they cannot be thinking about the implication of a cell tower on their neighbors. The negative feelings generated by consideration of such a structure in a residentially zoned area are already causing strife between the Church and its neighbors. Church members will have to consider other methods to increase their income.

We very strongly object to the presence of a cell tower in our residential neighborhood or any neighborhood that is residentially zoned. We fully expect the Planning Board to reject this application.

Deborah Wesson
Jeffrey Wesson
118 Newtown Road
Acton.MA.01720

Kim DelNigro

From: Lisa Mitchell [lbmitchell@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2006 8:17 PM
To: Planning Board
Cc: Lisa and Bill Mitchell
Subject: Petition against cell tower at Church of Good Shepard

Dear Acton Planning Board,
Please see our signed petition attached.

Respectfully,
Lisa & Bill Mitchell

9/25/2006

To the Town of Acton Planning Board:

We, the undersigned neighbors of the Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road, hereby petition you to refuse the cell tower "special permit" request at that location. There are many reasons for our opposition, ranging from practical to aesthetics to the negative impact on housing values. To review these in detail:

1. **Insufficient public notice.** Over the past few weeks, word of this proposal has spread basically word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor. Many neighbors couldn't believe they hadn't known about this proposal, or about the first planning board meeting on Aug 22. Prior to the first meeting, only direct abutters had been notified. In our opinion, this is a neighborhood issue encompassing hundreds of homes, not just the dozen or so abutters.
2. This is the first cell tower going up in a **100% residential** Acton neighborhood. This tower will be completely out of character within our neighborhood. We are further concerned about any low-level persistent buzzing or humming noises associated with the tower - as this neighborhood is 100% residential, this noise could become the background noise at several abutting homes.
3. Our understanding is that this proposal is for a Monopole style Cell tower, which will be 100 feet tall, located in a 1,400 square foot clearing behind the Church. Particularly in the winter (but year round for many neighbors), this will become part of our normal backyard views. **Aesthetically this is unacceptable.**
4. There is much debate on the health issues related to cell towers (and our understanding is that the telecommunications providers themselves prefer not to build a tower within 1,000 feet of schools). We also understand that, due to federal law regarding utilities, the unknown health issues may not be used as a reason to block a cell tower. However, on a more practical basis, this broadly perceived health impact will have a direct and hugely negative **impact on property values.** In these times of declining home prices and rising real estate inventories, who wants to give buyers a reason to look elsewhere?
5. **Unnecessary duplication of towers.** We believe there is another cell tower already scheduled to be built just 2 miles from this Church of the Good Shepard location - the other tower to be built right on Route 2 by a corporate office park near Central Street. This office park seems a sensible location designed for maximum benefit of the many people and businesses clustered around Route 2. Even if a second tower is "optimal" from T-Mobile's point of view, the fact that there will be a tower in such close proximity adds to the argument against putting another one in a residential neighborhood.
6. **Town-wide planning.** As taxpayers, we believe that cell tower access points should be a town resource. By allowing not-for-profits to capture these profits, we are throwing away a valuable town resource. In a town that struggles constantly with budget overrides, this seems like poor husbandry of our town resources. Town wide planning would also allow for optimal placement of cell towers, rather than a patchwork created by random entities willing to lease their land.
7. Also on the town resource front, one of the primary abutters is the Acton school district. The town of Concord just turned down a cell permit application earlier this year, as they did not want the tower to impact future development potential. Allowing the Church of the Good Shepard to proceed allows them to reduce the value of one of our town resources.

As awareness of this issue spreads, our opposition is growing. If passed, this special permit will set a dangerous precedent, with corporate interests placed ahead of those town residents. Please join us in opposing the placement of this cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepard.

Kim DelNigro

From: George Church [gechurch@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2006 5:26 PM
To: Planning Board; os@acton-ma.gov
Subject: SUPPORT for Cell Tower at Newtown/Arlington
Importance: High

I would like to voice my strong support for the timely approval of the cell tower proposed at the corner of Newton Road and Arlington streets.

Although some might like to think otherwise, cell phones are an integral part of our public safety network – not just for emergency services personnel but for residents and visitors to our community that need to be able to respond to family and school emergencies. I'm not a customer of T-Mobile but I recognize that a network it is only as strong as the weakest link and there are many holes in the cellular networks in Acton.

There is an active campaign to organize opposition to this tower, led by a group of people that hide behind an anonymous email address. I might guess it is led by the same people that seemingly oppose all progress that doesn't benefit them directly – the people that opposed the tower at Post Office Square a few years ago, the people that oppose traffic safety improvements (or at least until someone they know is killed), etc....

I'm sure that many of the people working to block progress rely on cell phones to communicate with their children and colleagues and thus their actions are hypocritical at best. As my elected official I ask you to consider the public safety implications of this decision for all Acton residents and not be influenced by unfounded and unsubstantiated objections about possible impact to the scenic beauty of the area.

George Church

5 McKinley Drive

Kim DelNigro

From: Evan Burr [erburr@alum.wpi.edu]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2006 11:30 AM
To: Planning Board; Board of Selectmen
Subject: Please no cell tower!

My name is Evan Burr

I am a resident of Newtown Road (109) and object very strongly to the proposed cell tower being constructed on the property of the Church of the Good Shepard on Newtown Road.

The Arlington/Newtown road area by the church is one of the prettiest areas in Acton, and placing a cell tower there in Acton would destroy this nice area.

In addition, irregardless of health concerns, we don't next all these extra radio waves be transmitted in our area. For radio and television interference reasons this could be a potential disaster, and we already have radio interference problems in our area.

Thirdly, my family has had previous unpleasant experiences with the Good Shepard's church council, and find them to be ruthless, nasty people who are interested in making extra money through this means and others for an unknown purpose. They don't care about the community and I don't believe they should be given the right to construct this tower under any circumstances. As a Christian individual, I feel granting a license to this congregation would be condoning the activities of an organization that does not set a good role model for the community and Christian mission.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Kim DelNigro

From: Sarah Murphy [sarmurphy@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2006 6:02 PM
To: Planning Board; Board of Selectmen
Subject: Cell Tower at Newtown/Arlington

We just wanted to say that we strongly oppose the cell tower proposed to go up at the Church of the Good Shepard on Newtown and Arlington. We live in Patriot's Hill and for all of the reasons that have been brought to your attention on this matter, we do not want a cell tower in our neighborhood. Please consider not allowing this to happen.

Thank-you,

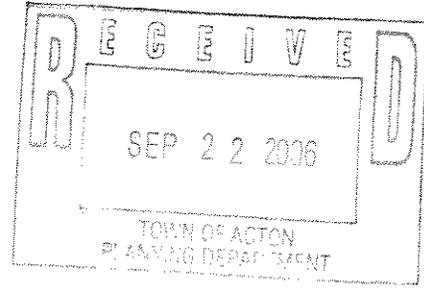
Sarah and Paul Murphy

16 Revolutionary Rd.



Kim DelNigro

From: Monteleone Rand [Rand.Monteleone@draeger.com]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2006 2:35 PM
To: Planning Board; Board of Selectmen
Cc: admin@goodshepherdacton.org
Subject: Opposition to proposed cell tower



Dear Planning Board and Board of Selectmen,

As a resident of Acton, I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposed cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepherd. I am shocked that we would consider allowing a cell tower on land that is zoned residential. I am also shocked that the church would do this to their neighbors. Considering the targeted coverage of the cell tower is Route 2, it seems strange to me that tower would be placed away from Route 2 and in the middle of a neighborhood. There are plenty of more appropriate places along Route 2 for the placement of the tower. Personally, I am very concerned about the possible health hazards from the cell tower. I realize that the Telecommunications Act prevents the consideration of health concerns, but how would you like this thing in your back yard. It should not be in a residential area!

The proposed location is totally out of character with the neighborhood surrounding it. Why should the neighbors of the church have to suffer with the decreased property value, unsightly tower, and unknown health hazards so that the church can go on another money-making venture (they were in the real estate business a few years ago)?

I also found it funny that the access road to the tower is off of Arlington Street. The church doesn't even own this land. They sold their frontage on Arlington Street so that they could sell another lot on Lincoln Drive (connected to Arlington Street by a 50 ft strip of land). Does their easement even allow this type of usage?

I urge the board to reject this proposed cell tower.

Sincerely,
 Rand J. Monteleone
 5 Lincoln Dr.
 Acton

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9/22/2006

Kim DeNigro

From: Kim Meusel [tkmeusel@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2006 2:03 PM
To: Planning Board
Subject: proposed cell tower at Newtown and Arlington

Members of Acton town Planning Board,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the special permit for a cell tower at The Church of the Good Shepard.

I do not believe this is the best location for such a structure. It will be looming, not over an entire neighborhood, but also will loom over town conservation land, a precious commodity. How can this possibly be aesthetically acceptable?

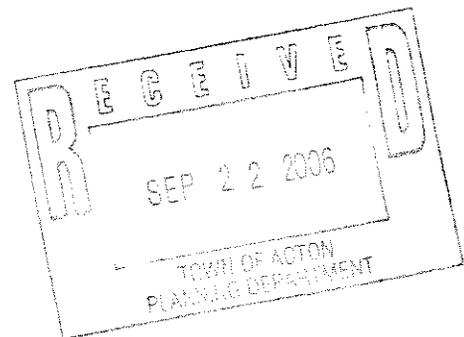
Allowing a 100 foot cell tower to be constructed from the ground up in this residential location will severely damage the beautiful setting of this whole part of town. There is no way to make this structure "blend" with the scenery or hide it within the existing building. Allowing this permit will set a terrible precedent for all future cell structures in Acton.

I hope the Planning Board will work to preserve the quality and integrity of our town as we know it. We all moved here for the beautiful suburban/rural setting. There must be a way for the board to plan for these towers in a way that doesn't damage the town.

Please consider declining this special permit.

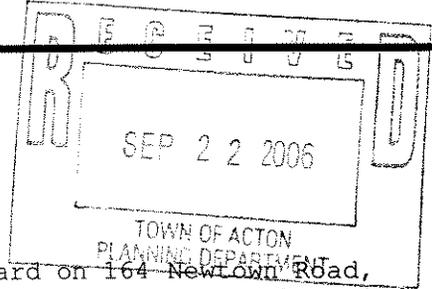
Most Sincerely,

Kim Meusel



Kim DeNigro

From: hfmakris@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 7:23 PM
To: nonewtownroadcelltower@gmail.com; Planning Board
Subject: newtown rd cell tower proposal



We, the undersigned neighbors of the Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road, hereby petition you to refuse the cell tower "special permit" request at that location. There are many reasons for our opposition, ranging from practical to aesthetics to the negative impact on housing values. To review these in detail:

1. Insufficient public notice. Over the past few weeks, word of this proposal has spread basically word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor. Many neighbors couldn't believe they hadn't known about this proposal, or about the first planning board meeting on Aug 22. Prior to the first meeting, only direct abutters had been notified. In our opinion, this is a neighborhood issue encompassing hundreds of homes, not just the dozen or so abutters.
2. This is the first cell tower going up in a 100% residential Acton neighborhood. This tower will be completely out of character within our neighborhood. We are further concerned about any low-level persistent buzzing or humming noises associated with the tower - as this neighborhood is 100% residential, this noise could become the background noise at several abutting homes.
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6. Town-wide planning. As taxpayers, we believe that cell tower access points should be a town resource. By allowing not-for-profits to capture these profits, we are throwing away a valuable town resource. In a town that struggles constantly with budget overrides, this seems like poor husbandry of our town resources. Town wide planning would also allow for optimal placement of cell towers, rather than a patchwork created by random entities willing to lease their land.
7. Also on the town resource front, one of the primary abutters is the Acton school district. The town of Concord just turned down a cell permit application earlier this year, as they did not want the tower to impact future development potential. Allowing the Church of the Good Shepard to proceed allows them to reduce the value of one of our town resources.

As awareness of this issue spreads, our opposition is growing. If passed, this special permit will set a dangerous precedent, with corporate interests placed ahead of those town residents. Please join us in opposing the placement of this cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepard.

Name	Street Address
1. Heather Makris _____	_____ 6 Fife & Drum
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Please sign below to support this petition against the special permit for a cell tower at Church of the Good Shepard. (page 2)

Kim DeNigro

From: Allen Zubatkin [azubatkin@alum.wpi.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 4:32 PM
To: Planning Board; Board of Selectmen
Subject: Proposed Cell Tower

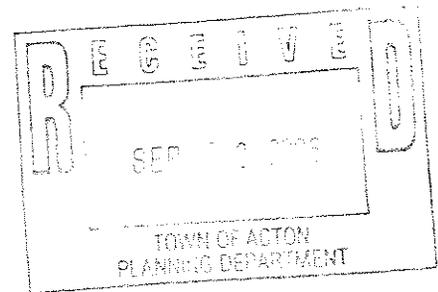
Dear Board Members,

As long time residents of Acton, we are writing to you to urge you to not approve the proposed cell tower permit.

Our town has grown and changed dramatically over the years, and the addition of this tower to the landscape will not only **not** benefit the residents, but will impact in a negative way the shrinking natural character of our town, and also poses potential health hazards.

Again, I strongly urge you to not approve.

Sincerely,
Susan and Allen Zubatkin
25 Revolutionary Rd



Kim DelNigro

From: venki srini [venkisrini@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 8:15 PM
To: Board of Selectmen; Planning Board
Cc: nonewtownroadcelltower@g.mail.com
Subject: NO to cell tower at newtown Rd/Arlington

Dear Sir/Madam:

I heard recently that there is an application for a special permit to put a cell tower at church of good shepard. I would like to point out that we would not want to see a monstrous 100-foot tower in the middle of a residential area.

We just bought our home recently in newtown road. One of the main reason that motivated us to buy was the calm and scenic beauty of the area. Now we hear that a permit is being planned to be issued for constructing a tower. Not only will this affect the scenic beauty of this area; it will impact the property values. We do not need this tower in a residential area.

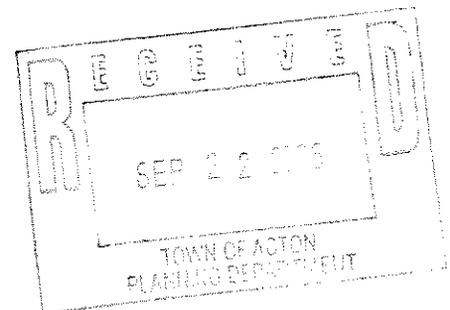
I am writing this email to urge you to deny this petition.

Sincerely,

Venki Srinivasan

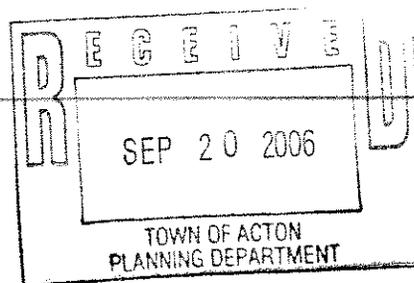
Do You Yahoo!?

Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
<http://mail.yahoo.com>



Kim DelNigro

From: Judy Nolan [judynolan@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 4:02 PM
To: Planning Board
Cc: Board of Selectmen; Patricia Bertucci
Subject: Cell Tower article May 12, 2006



The following article was forwarded to me and I thought this might be of interest to you regarding the Cell Tower proposed at the Church of the Good Shepard on Newtown Rd.

Sincerely,

Judy Nolan

May 12, 2006

Santa Cruz K-5 closes citing cell tower radiation

By ROGER SIDEMAN
 SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ □ A new Westside elementary school is closing its doors following plans by First Congregational Church to install three cell-phone transmitters next door atop its 80-foot steeple. Una Familia, the private school at 900 High St. that serves 25 kindergarten through fifth-grade students at 900 High St., has a stated mission of incorporating neuroscience into its curriculum. It's an emphasis that school founder Joan Harrington, who rents the space from the church, says is inherently incompatible with a business deal she says would bathe the neighborhood in electromagnetic radiation. "This has ruined my business because the families that come to me were coming to be part of this special program," said Harrington, who taught at Bonny Doon School for 20 years before opening Una Familia on the old Pacific Collegiate site in January. "It makes absolutely no sense for me to go forward with my research."

Part of the school's so-called "brain-based" educational model looks at how ambient radiation impairs student performance and intensifies student distractibility.

Cell phone companies have long maintained that there isn't any clear evidence that cellular towers pose any health risks. In the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress banned local governments from blocking towers on safety grounds.

First Congregational Church's senior minister Dave Grishaw-Jones said he's heartbroken by the situation with the elementary school.

"We believe Jean's mission at the school fit our values as a progressive church," Grishaw-Jones said. "If our leadership felt the science was clear, we'd back off in a flash. Science is used in different ways, and we thought it's best not to be intimidated."

Built in the late 1950s, the church's steeple is now in disrepair and needs to be stabilized, Grishaw-Jones said. A financial deal initiated by cell provider Sprint will allow the church to keep the steeple, he said. Raising funds to fix the steeple is one thing, local activists contend, but doing it by building a cell transmitter to benefit a private enterprise is another.

Though the new transmitters are intended to smooth out patchy phone service in the area □ a frequent complaint of UC Santa Cruz staff and students nearby □ Harrington and other opponents view them as

nothing less than an affront to human health and the democratic process.

"It's a usurpation of our rights to choose the hazards we want or don't want to be exposed to," said Deborah Salisbury of the Alliance for Wireless Hazard Protection based in Live Oak.

Parent Annemarie Bertschi had two children enrolled in art classes at Una Familia.

"I've looked at some of the data around cell towers and a 1,000 foot buffer would be more reasonable; this is way too close," she said.

But apparently there's already a smaller cell tower much closer to the school, hidden inside a fake chimney on the church roof; it's been there since 1999. Harrington said she learned about it just five weeks ago, adding that the existing tower was also a factor in her decision to close the school.

The federal ban that prevents local governments from using health concerns as a factor in regulating cellular towers hasn't stopped some area governments. Some have called for moratoriums on tower building, and places like Gilroy have passed local laws to restrict the size, shape and location of future cell sites.

No moratorium exists in Santa Cruz, but the proposal by First Congressional Church still requires the City Council's approval, Grishaw-Jones said.

Last month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it will review wireless phone safety following a recently published study that raised concerns about a heightened risk of brain cancer. The agency continues to monitor studies for possible health problems stemming from long-term exposure to radio frequency energy.

Earlier this year in Monterey, the city approved plans to install three cell phone towers disguised inside three specially constructed fiberglass crosses to be mounted atop St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church. Elsewhere in the region, companies have begun disguising cell towers inside faux pine trees, water towers and billboards.

Contact Roger Sideman at rsideman@santacruzsentinel.com.



The fall/winter 2006 catalog has arrived...

Judy Nolan, Senior Consultant

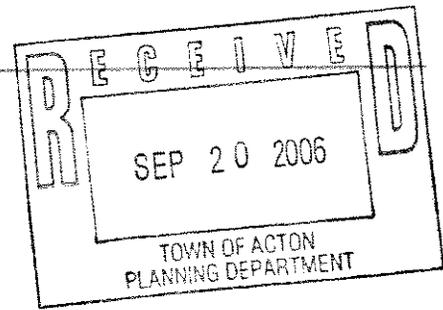
Cookie Lee Jewelry

judynolan@verizon.net

978-263-9938

Kim DelNigro

From: Catherine Longwell [cmlongwell@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 11:27 AM
To: Planning Board
Cc: Mark Longwell
Subject: Newtown Road Cell Tower



Please don't!

1. **Insufficient public notice.** Over the past few weeks, word of this proposal has spread basically word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor. Many neighbors couldn't believe they hadn't known about this proposal, or about the first planning board meeting on Aug 22. Prior to the first meeting, only direct abutters had been notified. In our opinion, this is a neighborhood issue encompassing hundreds of homes, not just the dozen or so abutters.
2. This is the first cell tower going up in a **100% residential** Acton neighborhood. This tower will be completely out of character within our neighborhood. We are further concerned about any low-level persistent buzzing or humming noises associated with the tower - as this neighborhood is 100% residential, this noise could become the background noise at several abutting homes.
3. Our understanding is that this proposal is for a Monopole style Cell tower, which will be 100 feet tall, located in a 1,400 square foot clearing behind the Church. Particularly in the winter (but year round for many neighbors), this will become part of our normal backyard views. **Aesthetically this is unacceptable.**
4. There is much debate on the health issues related to cell towers (and our understanding is that the telecommunications providers themselves prefer not to build a tower within 1,000 feet of schools). We also understand that, due to federal law regarding utilities, the unknown health issues may not be used as a reason to block a cell tower. However, on a more practical basis, this broadly perceived health impact will have a direct and hugely negative **impact on property values**. In these times of declining home prices and rising real estate inventories, who wants to give buyers a reason to look elsewhere?
5. **Unnecessary duplication of towers.** We believe there is another cell tower already scheduled to be built just 2 miles from this Church of the Good Shepard location - the other tower to be built right on Route 2 by a corporate office park near Central Street. This office park seems a sensible location designed for maximum benefit of the many people and businesses clustered around Route 2. Even if a second tower is "optimal" from T-Mobile's point of view, the fact that there will be a tower in such close proximity adds to the argument against putting another one in a residential neighborhood.
6. **Town-wide planning.** As taxpayers, we believe that cell tower access points should be a town resource. By allowing not-for-profits to capture these profits, we are throwing away a valuable town resource. In a town that struggles constantly with budget overrides, this seems like poor husbandry of our town resources. Town wide planning would also allow for optimal placement of cell towers, rather than a patchwork created by random entities willing to lease their land.
7. Also on the town resource front, one of the primary abutters is the Acton school district. The town of Concord just turned down a cell permit application earlier this year, as they did not want the tower to impact future development potential. Allowing the Church of the Good Shepard to proceed allows them to reduce the value of one of our town resources.

9/20/2006

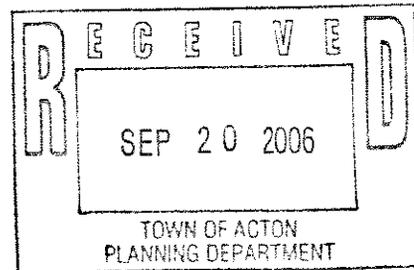
Catherine and Mark LONGWELL
9 Kennedy Lane
Acton

Kim DelNigro

From: Ray Paradiso [rayrunswim@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 7:03 AM
To: Planning Board
Subject: cell tower

I am against the cell tower at Newtown Road and Arlington street. Please count my vote as a NO.

Ray Paradiso
24 Revolutionary Road
Acton, MA 01720



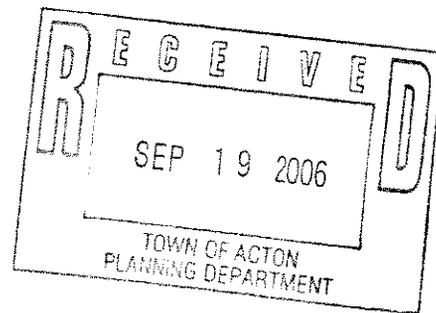
Kim DelNigro

From: Stacey Page [stacey@wedgewoodpines.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 3:28 PM
To: Planning Board
Subject: cell tower

We oppose the cell tower planned for the Church of the Good Shepard located at 164 Newtown Road.

Stacey and Trevor Page
3A Lincoln Drive

Sent via the WebMail system at wedgewoodpines.com



Roland Bartl

From: Stacey Page [stacey@wedgewoodpines.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 3:28 PM
To: Planning Board
Subject: cell tower

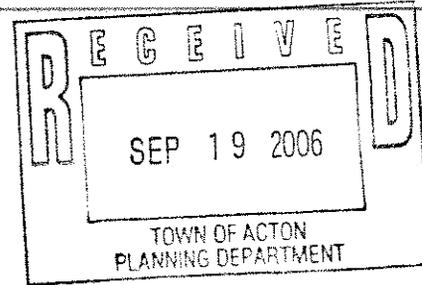
We oppose the cell tower planned for the Church of the Good Shepard located at 164 Newtown Road.

Stacey and Trevor Page
3A Lincoln Drive

Sent via the WebMail system at [wedgewoodpines.com](mailto:stacey@wedgewoodpines.com)

Kim DelNigro

From: Judy Nolan [judynolan@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 4:13 PM
To: Planning Board
Cc: Board of Selectmen
Subject: Opposition to proposed cell tower



he Town of Acton Planning Board:

the undersigned neighbors of the Church of the Good Shepard on 164 Newtown Road, hereby petition you to see the cell tower "special permit" request at that location. There are many reasons for our opposition, ranging from practical to aesthetics to the negative impact on housing values. To review these in detail:

1. **Insufficient public notice.** Over the past few weeks, word of this proposal has spread basically word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor. Many neighbors couldn't believe they hadn't known about this proposal, or about the first planning board meeting on Aug 22. Prior to the first meeting, only direct abutters had been notified. In our opinion, this is a neighborhood issue encompassing hundreds of homes, not just the dozen or so abutters.
2. This is the first cell tower going up in a **100% residential** Acton neighborhood. This tower will be completely out of character within our neighborhood. We are further concerned about any low-level persistent buzzing or humming noises associated with the tower - as this neighborhood is 100% residential, this noise could become the background noise at several abutting homes.
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5. **Unnecessary duplication of towers.** We believe there is another cell tower already scheduled to be built just 2 miles from this Church of the Good Shepard location - the other tower to be built right on Route 2 by a corporate office park near Central Street. This office park seems a sensible location designed for maximum benefit of the many people and businesses clustered around Route 2. Even if a second tower is "optimal" from T-Mobile's point of view, the fact that there will be a tower in such close proximity adds to the argument against putting another one in a residential neighborhood.
6. **Town-wide planning.** As taxpayers, we believe that cell tower access points should be a town resource. By allowing not-for-profits to capture these profits, we are throwing away a valuable town resource. In a town that struggles constantly with budget overrides, this seems like poor husbandry of our town resources. Town wide planning would also allow for optimal placement of cell towers, rather than a patchwork created by random entities willing to lease their land.

Also on the town resource front, one of the primary abutters is the Acton school district. The town of Concord just turned down a cell permit application earlier this year, as they did not want the tower to impact future development potential. Allowing the Church of the Good Shepard to proceed allows them to reduce the value of one of our town resources.

9/19/2006

As awareness of this issue spreads, our opposition is growing. If passed, this special permit will set a dangerous precedent, with corporate interests placed ahead of those town residents. Please join us in opposing the placement of this cell tower at the Church of the Good Shepard.

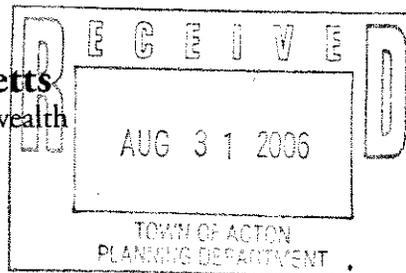
Sincerely,

Judy and Jim Nolan
7 Lincoln Drive, Acton



*Historical Comm
Planning
1305*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission



August 22, 2006

Linda Mackey
Architectural Historian
EBI Consulting
Four A Street
Burlington, MA 01803

RE: Telecommunications Installation, 164 Newtown Road, Acton, MA; EBI# 6106-2557, MHC# RC.40260

Dear Ms. Mackey:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has reviewed the information you submitted, received July 25, 2006, concerning the proposed project referenced above. As you may be aware, the project site is in proximity of several properties that are included in MHC's Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth and may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60). These are the properties historically known as the Samuel Potter Conant House at 36 Hammond Street (MHC# ACT.148), the Robert Chaffin House at 225 Newtown Street (ACT.150) and two properties at 312 Nagog Hill Road (ACT.147 & ACT.641). After a review of the information provided, MHC staff have the following comments.

The project involves installing a 100-foot tall flagpole-style telecommunications tower within a fenced equipment compound on the property of the Church of the Good Samaritan at 164 Newtown Road in Acton. Three 72-inch by 13-inch panel antennas will be mounted on the tower at a height of 100 feet above ground level. Three other arrays of panel antennas will be mounted on the tower in the future, at center heights of 67, 77 and 87 feet above ground level, respectively.

After a review of MHC files and the information submitted, I have determined that the proposed project will have "no adverse effect" (36 CFR 800.5(b) and 950 CMR 71.07(2)(b)(2)) on the historic resources mentioned above.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800) and M.G.L. Chapter 9, Section 26-27C, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00). Please do not hesitate to contact Walter Maros of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
Acting Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Acton Historical Commission

Kim DelNigro

From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 2:57 PM
To: Planning Board
Subject: FW: (no subject)

FYI

*Roland Bartl, AICP
Town Planner, Town of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
978-264-9636*

-----Original Message-----

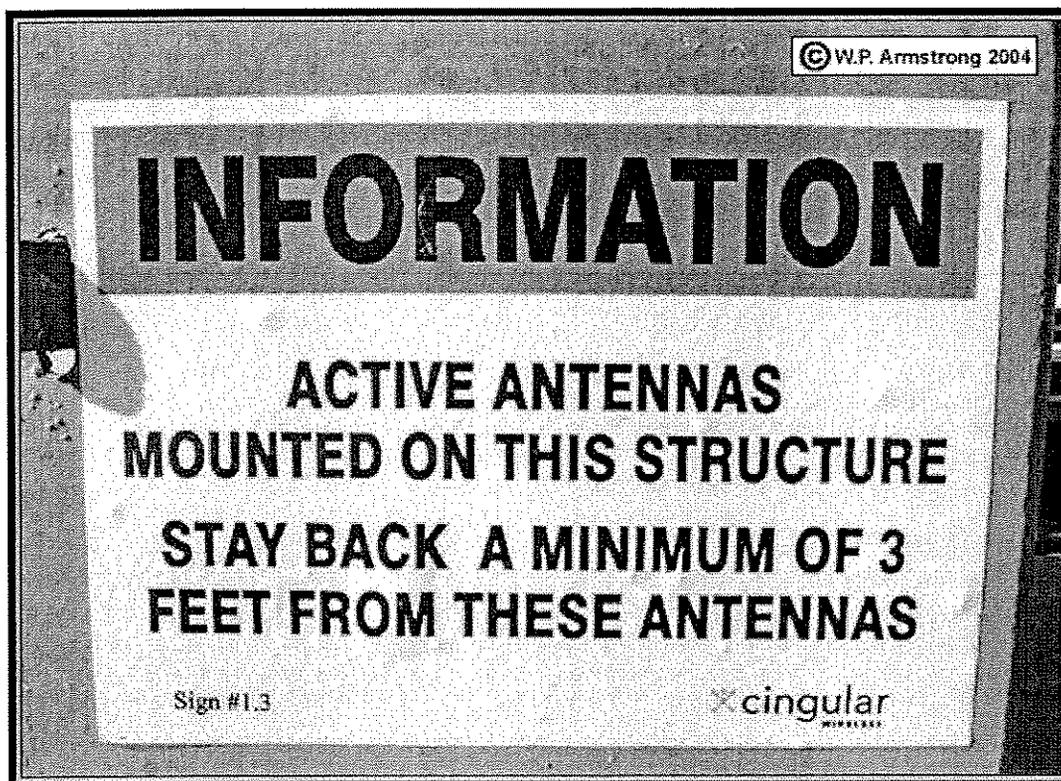
From: Josie01@aol.com [mailto:Josie01@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2006 10:35 AM
To: Roland Bartl
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Mr. Bartl,

The information regarding a possible location of a phone tower on the premises of the Church of the God Shepherd on the corner of Arlington St. and Newtown Road was just brought to my attention. Although I will be away on the 22nd of August I would like to express my concerns.

It seems to me ill-advised to propose such a site in a populated residential area and on various counts, the tower might present a dangerous "attractive nuisance." For example: over the years, this corner has been the site of a number of car and bike accidents. Might not a "disguised" pole be an additional distraction to motorists, bikers and others?.

It is a site so available to many children that one can only imagine the attraction a tower would have along with its opportunity for potential danger.



I live around the corner from the site and my cell phone works quite well from my home. Other neighbors likewise have good cell phone reception. Why then is this site being considered? I understand by the documents presented, that the tower does not have to serve only the immediate community, but neighboring communities or towns as well. This might be reasonable if these other areas did not have their own available space for a tower. Surely there would be other potential sites in the areas that need a tower.

As far as I know, Lincoln, MA has not to date had to comply with FCC requests. Why? Can Acton not fend off the FCC in the same manner?

Please consider notifying residents within 1 mile of the suggested site for their input.

Thank you for considering this matter in a responsible manner.

Sincerely,
Jo-Ellen Hirsch
3 Fort Pond Road
Acton, MA

Kim DelNigro

From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 2:55 PM
To: Planning Board
Subject: FW: Cell Tower

FYI

*Roland Bartl, AICP
Town Planner, Town of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
978-264-9636*

-----Original Message-----

From: Jay Phillips [mailto:hylandphillips@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, August 19, 2006 10:12 AM
To: Roland Bartl
Subject: Fw: Cell Tower

----- Original Message -----

From: Jay Phillips
To: rbatl@acton-ma.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2006 9:14 PM
Subject: Cell Tower

Mr. Roland Bartl
Acton Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Bartl,

We have recently become aware of the fact that a Omni Point Cell Tower is being considered for the residential location on the corner of Arlington Street and Newtown Road. We would like to register our very great concern for locating a large and obtrusive commercial object in the mist of quiet neighborhoods and local wooded areas.

We originally moved to Jackson Drive because of the atmosphere in and around the connecting neighborhood. We feel a cell tower would greatly detract from that atmosphere. We hope that you will consider the opinions of the local population when addressing this issue.

Respectfully,

Christine & Jay Phillips
16 Jackson Drive
Acton, MA 01720

8/21/2006