

# **Auburn Planning Board Meeting Minutes April 9, 2013**

## **Roll Call**

**Full Members present:** Robert Gagnon, Evan Cyr, Emily Mottram, Robert Bowyer Presiding, Dan Bilodeau, Marc Tardif and Dan Philbrick.

**Associate Members present:** Mia Poliquin Pross and Kenneth Bellefleur.

**Also present:** Director / City Planner Eric Cousens who represented City staff.

## **Minutes**

A request to approve the February 12, 2013 meeting minutes was made by staff.

A motion was made by Evan Cyr and seconded by Marc Tardif to approve the February 12, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. After a vote, the motion carried 6-0-1. Chairperson Bowyer abstained due to not being present at the February meeting.

## **Public Hearings:**

**Special Exception and Site Plan Request of KJK Wireless, LLC to construct a rooftop 12 panel cellular antenna installation at 74 Lake Auburn Avenue, pursuant to Chapter 60, Article XI(Wireless Communications Facilities) of the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance.**

Chairperson Bowyer explained the procedure that is used for Public Hearings.

Eric Cousens read the staff report.

Evan Cyr declared that his uncle was a tenant of 74 Lake Auburn Avenue and said he would leave it up to the discretion of the Board as to whether or not he should abstain from voting on this public hearing. The Board members determined they were comfortable with Evan partaking in the voting on this Public Hearing.

Peter Marchant with KJK Wireless and Agent for US Cellular gave a brief description of the project and the reasons behind the proposal.

## **Open Public Hearing**

Richard Whiting, Representative of Auburn Housing Authority stated that this was a favorable arrangement for Auburn Housing. He added that he had called a few of the abutters and none had any issue with the installation of the antenna. Eric pointed out that public notices were mailed to every property owner within 500 feet of the full boundaries of 74 Lake Auburn Avenue and that he did not receive any calls or emails regarding this project.

A motion was made by Robert Gagnon and seconded by Dan Bilodeau to close the public hearing. After a vote, the motion carried 7-0-0.

Chairperson Bowyer commented that this is the type of installation of cell towers that ought to be encouraged rather than free standing towers which can be a blighting element in visual landscape.

A motion was made by Dan Bilodeau and seconded by Evan Cyr to approve the Special Exception and Site Plan request of KJK Wireless for Maine RSA #1 aka US Cellular, to construct a 12 panel roof mounted wireless telecommunications antenna at 74 Lake Auburn Avenue (PID 260-142) pursuant to Chapter 60, Article XI of the Ordinances of the City of Auburn, with the condition that the facility be built in compliance with the plans and specifications which have been received by the Planning Board in connection with the development proposal.

After a vote, the motion carried 7-0-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None at this time.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Chairperson Bowyer gave each Board member a copy of an article about the relationship between demographic change and housing conditions that was found in a recent issue of Planning Magazine. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the Board members regarding the article and the potential of an Assistant Planner being hired. Chairman Bowyer commented that the City's Planning Department has been shorthanded for several years which has had a negative effect on the implementation of the comprehensive plan.

Eric mentioned that he was working with the City Manager on an RFP for technical services for the Lake Auburn Watershed Technical Review Committee and stressed that before it went out to any consultant group that it would come before this Board.

Eric provided an update regarding the Joint Land Use Study with Maine Army National Guard and said it was progressing but taking a substantial amount of time to keep up with the process. He said they were working with MEANG to make sure it would be a balanced approach to addressing their access issues and future growth around the Mount Apatite site. He mentioned that they were scheduling an Open House near the end of May after which the committee wants to meet with the Planning Board and City Council to provide an update.

A motion was made by Dan Bilodeau and seconded by Evan Cyr to have the Chairperson draft a letter to the City Council stating that if funds became available they keep the Planning position in the forefront.

After a vote, the motion carried 7-0-0.

Eric mentioned there may be a proposal for a new shooting range in the AG zone for the next Planning Board meeting. He said this was an interesting project and most likely would bring a lot of the public to the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Robert Gagnon and seconded by Marc Tardif to adjourn. After a vote, the motion carried 7-0-0.