

TOWN OF LEWISBORO
Antenna Advisory Board
PO Box 500
South Salem, NY 10590



Email: AAB@lewisborogov.com
Website: www.lewisborogov.com

Minutes of the AAB Meeting

September 22, 2020

Meeting was held via Zoom videoconference and called to order by Joseph Neu at 6:32pm

Present: Joseph Neu (Chair), Jim Moreo, Brian Porco
Absent: Neil Berman, Rob Cummings, Tony Gonçalves (Councilman/Town Board Liaison), Chris Nelson (KLSD Liaison)

Approval of Minutes and Housekeeping

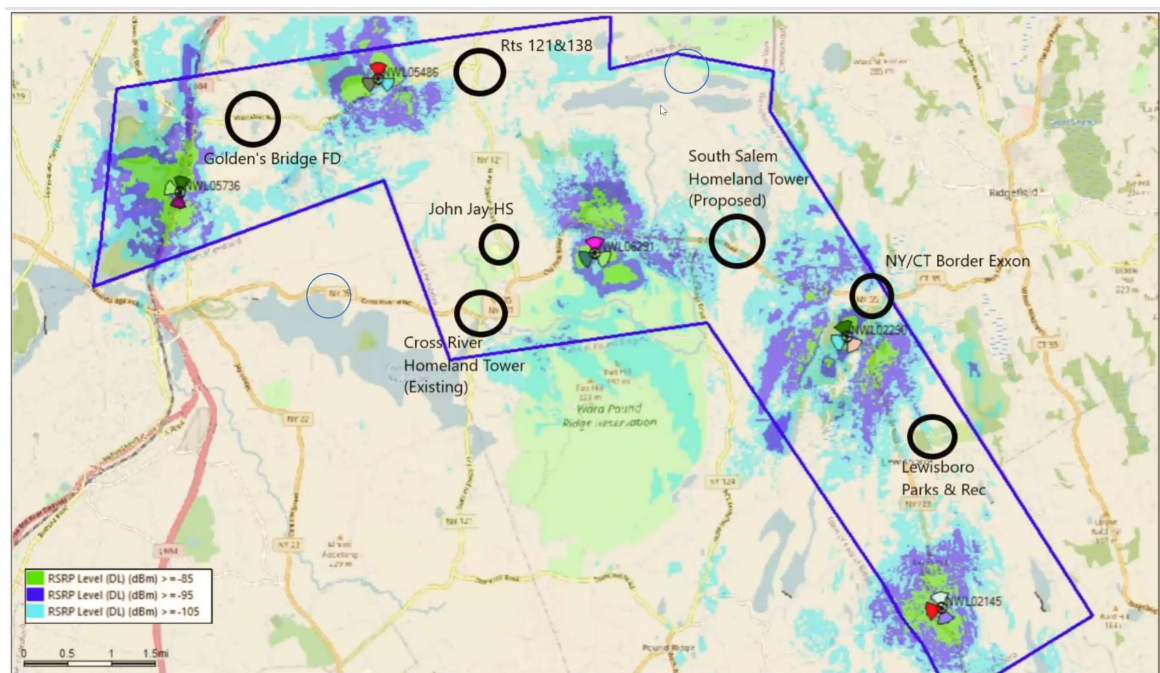
- Chair moved to approve the minutes from the September 2 meeting. Minutes were approved without objection.
- Recording the meetings for help with producing the minutes. AAB considered town resident requests for posting video recording of AAB meetings and determined that the board would not. The minutes are made available to inform the public and the public can attend the meetings if desired.
- In response to an attendee question, the AAB recognized that the recordings may need to be archived for FOIL requests. FOIL requests are handled by the Town, as the AAB serves in an advisory capacity to the Town Board. Until advised otherwise, the AAB will archive the recordings and work to comply with open meetings law.

New Business

- AAB engagement with CityScape Wireless Telecommunications Infrastructure Master Plan Study for the Northern Westchester County.
 - The Chair noted that an earlier exchange via email and Asana, showed the AAB position was split on the decision by the Town Board to postpone all new cell tower proposals until the CityScape study was completed. While the Chair concurred with Supervisor Parson's recommendation for postponement prior to the Town Board decision, he stated for the record that he did share the dissenting views with the Supervisor as well.
 - The dissenting view that there was enough of a consensus for the Salt Dome tower location to proceed (at least with the planned balloon and driver tests) and a delay risked a scenario where Verizon would spend the money budgeted for the tower and antenna installation elsewhere.
 - This is an important view to represent because there is a risk that we lose the funding and backing of the carriers to build the towers that we need.
 - The risk also underscores the need to stay on offense and do what we can to keep the dialogue going with all constituents to keep connectivity

including wireless coverage initiatives moving forward.

- Chair shared the timeline for the CityScape project which runs for about four months. It was unclear when the project would start.
- Chair summarized the role that the Town of Bedford is playing in the CityScape project (as project manager and fiscal agent) and the sentiment of their Supervisor (Burdick) that the project should be expedited to ensure the funds the County has committed remain available.
- The master plan is specific to wireless communications. So, for example, they will recommend where cell coverage is lacking and where infrastructure can best be installed to address that.
- In preparation for that, the AAB could share what has been learned by the AAB, Tony and others in speaking with Homeland Towers, the carriers and other constituencies. An example was shown (see below):



- The light blue circles indicate the area along Route 35 in the Town of Bedford, where there is a coverage gap mentioned by Homeland Towers and the area in the northeast of Lewisboro covering the Twin Lakes and Waccabuc, where there is significant population density and poor coverage. The latter has not been cited by the carriers but stands to reason to be worth investigating.
- One way the AAB can assist: Can we get a consensus, including town residents, on where we need towers and have CityScape help validate that?
- To help on the town residents front, the AAB proposed surveying residents to have them indicate, "hey, we don't have any coverage where we live."
- This could be part of the marketing effort to previously recommended: to raise awareness on the need for connectivity and wireless coverage to help provide that and strengthen and give voice to the proponent constituency within the town, plus counter the vocal opposition constituency.
- The AAB also agreed to explore how we might build off the survey that

Katonah-Lewisboro School District did over the summer on internet connectivity in preparation for remote and hybrid learning during the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be important to have the AAB's voice in this as well with our own questions.

- Homework was given to read through the CityScape proposal and think about potential sites for them to look at.
 - South Salem Presbyterian Church, for instance, has renewed interest in exploring a site in their steeple, even if that requires rebuilding it for greater height.
 - Outreach to Farvue Farm will continue.
 - Sites within the Mountain Lakes Park will also be pointed out to CityScape.
- Preparing presentation to Town Board on emerging consensus on tower locations and addressing coverage in Northeastern section of town.
 - Suggestion was made to present with some statistics, requiring some advance work by the AAB, and perhaps Homeland Towers could help with this, too, along with CityScape.
 - For example, identify houses or areas of houses that lack adequate coverage.
 - Say we are here to help.
 - The idea of a survey could be another idea to include in the presentation to get Town Board backing/permission.
 - Aim to put forward idea that CityScape study is an opportunity for the town and seek to get as much out of it as possible, rather than just a delay mechanism to push off cell towers being put in.
 - Proposal was made that a presentation could also be done in follow-up to the CityScape study incorporating its findings as well as in parallel to it.
- How to maintain momentum with discussions involving the carriers, Homeland Towers and others so they don't reallocate funding waiting on the CityScape Master Plan Study.
 - Brian Porco agreed to be an additional point of contact and resource for outreach to the carriers that Tony has spearheaded with AT&T and Verizon. Chris Nelson has forged contacts with T-Mobile as well.
 - Suggestion was made to invite carrier representatives as guest speakers at AAB meetings or other forums. This would help reinforce the idea that they have a body that is interested in working with them and supporting their investment in infrastructure of for the town.
- Identifying additional resident and other constituencies supportive of improving wireless connectivity (as well as wired) to bring the future forward for Lewisboro.
 - See above for potential survey and presentations to the Town Board and other public forums for awareness and positive public relations.
 - We can also use these forums to solicit help for this effort.
 - AAB member recommended we point out the quality of life and safety improvements realized by most recent LVAC site in Cross River and highlight resident comments who have benefited.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion of Homeland Towers overview of the Salt Dome cell tower proposal, site justification and other background that followed.
 - No further discussion. However, as noted above, Homeland Towers successfully convinced several AAB members of the need for a cell tower in the vicinity of the Salt Dome.
- Recommendations to improve wireless carrier back-up power/recovery plans at tower sites; code/zoning for site approval.
 - Chair noted introduction of legislation at state level by Pete Harckham (a Lewisboro resident as well as New York State Senator) to require back-up power at cell sites, which could be used as a basis for municipal language.
 - Attendee provided link to the current bill.
 - AAB will work with planning board on language for cell-site applications and renewals regarding back-up power—e.g., plan for at least 72 hours like proposed legislation in California.
 - Proposal was made to look at other items such as backhaul requirements (e.g., fiber optic lines plus microwave) in addition to back-up power that should also be included.
 - AAB member suggested we ask CityScape if this could be in scope of their plan work.

Polling of the Board and Action Items

- Read the CityScape Proposal.
- Speak with Tony about presenting to the Town Board.
- Reach out to Chris Nelson at KLSD for what he can share about their survey.
- Reach out to planning board to establish dialogue on back-up power and other language for cell site zoning/permit approvals.
- Connect with CityScape for more information on timing and scope of their study and how the AAB can help.
- Connect with carriers to keep them on board with investment in Lewisboro, including speaking at an AAB meeting.
- Connect with Crown Castle to validate the lack of opportunity for small sites and an 5G in Lewisboro.
- Work out marketing preliminaries for community outreach.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.