

## **New Braintree Planning Board Minutes Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

**Present:** Genevieve Stillman, Vice-Chair; Dave Thompson; Jody Kablack

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair at 7:05 pm.

### **1. Request by NexAmp to close out solar facilities.**

- 275 Barre Cutoff Road – Miller
- 126 Old Turnpike Road – Borelli 2
- 40 Hardwick Road – Long
- 1940 Barre Road - Brodmerkle

The Board acknowledged receipt of documents from NexAmp on 1/7/2025 pertaining to this request:

- Decommissioning Bond for Brodmerkle solar facility dated 5/28/2020
- Maintenance Report for Brodmerkle solar facility dated 11/14/2024
- Maintenance Report for Miller solar facility dated 11/14/2024
- 2 Invoices for decommissioning bond renewals for Miller and Brodmerkle solar facilities with updated bond amounts dated 3/28/2024
- 2 Certificates of Liability Insurance for Miller and Brodmerkle solar facilities dated 1/3/2025

Connor Roche from NexAmp was in attendance

J. Kablack noted that all of this paperwork is under review and therefore the Board would not be voting to close any of the applications at this meeting. She also stated that recent site visits indicate dead trees at all the locations except the Miller facility on Barre Cutoff Road. It was discussed that if NexAmp wanted to close out the facilities before the trees have been replanted and survive, it may be possible they submit a performance bond to the Town. Mr. Roche noted that the Miller facility and the Borelli facilities were the closest to being fully operational and they will continue to work out the issues identified by the Board for all the sites.

Mr. Roche discussed the landscaping at the Borelli site on Old Turnpike Road. He noted that the request by the Board to install fence slats was prohibitively expensive so they re-planted ivy as shown on the plan. NexAmp offered the use of the additional \$25,000 for increased screening along the western lease area. J. Kablack noted that 15 trees and 5 shrubs had been planted in this area, but screening still seemed inadequate. The additional plantings along the eastern lease area have not been re-examined by the Board. Ms. Stillman cautioned that the additional screening does not include the existing landscape plan, it is primarily to enhance screening. The Board requested that a certification from a professional that the plantings are in compliance with the plan be submitted.

The Board also requested that a similar certification from a professional that the plantings are in compliance with plan be submitted for the Brodmerkle site.

**Minutes to Approve: July 5, 2024**

A Motion was made by D. Thompson and seconded by J. Kablack to approve the minutes of July 5, 2024 as drafted.

**Annual report**

The Board reviewed the draft Annual Report submitted by J. Kablack at the meeting. A motion was made by D. Thompson and seconded by G. Stillman to approve the annual report as submitted.

**Cell tower proposal on Igoe Road**

The Board reviewed the ZBA application to install a 170' cell tower on Igoe road on the Klem property. A motion was made by J. Kablack and seconded by D. Thompson to send the following recommendations to the Zoning Board for their consideration at the public hearing scheduled in January:

- A condition should be included in the decision that any municipal public safety equipment can co-locate on the tower at no cost;
- The tower should be constructed to minimize the view by attaching antennas closer to the pole, reducing the height of the tower, and allow more than 1 co-locator so additional towers do not need to be constructed.
- The Board additionally recommends that the applicant resubmit the simulation photos showing the tower views in the winter time with no leaves on trees.

A motion was made by D. Thompson, seconded by J. Kablack and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00 pm.