

Approved

July 30, 2008 Mason Planning Board

In attendance: Mark McDonald (chair), Bruce Mann, Dotsie Millbrandt

Absent: Linda Cotter-Cranston (alternate), Pam Lassen, Joe McGuire (alternate),
Chris Guiry (ex-o)

Call to order: 7:45 pm

Next Meetings: Public hearing, August 5, 2008.
Extra meeting, August 6, 2008.
Regular meeting, August 27, 2008.

Old Business: Approved minutes from June 25, 2008.
New Business:

(1) Darryl Wagoner wants to amend the Telecommunication Facilities Ordinance, a part of the Mason Planning Ordinance. He has a nonprofit co-operative that wants to bring high speed data service to town by putting transceivers on amateur radio towers. He would like to amend the telecommunications ordinance to get non-profit use of amateur radio towers exempt from the ordinance.

The board has concerns about changing the wording of the Telecommunications Ordinance. It might open up a window that could have unintended consequences and allow other uses than just the co-operative.

The board has questions about safety, RF interference, and town liability. Amateur radio towers are exempt from the review and bonding provisions of the Telecommunications Ordinance. They have not been inspected nor have they gone through site plan review. They could be unsafe. If a child climbs an amateur radio tower and gets hurt, it is the landowners liability. But if the town has allowed a transceiver for public use (or non-profit co-operative use) to be installed on the amateur radio tower, now the landowner can attempt to avoid the liability.

The board also has concerns about the vagueness of the co-operative plans. There is no written proposal. The transceivers have not been chosen, the power and RF characteristics are unknown, the number and location of the amateur radio towers to be used is still open.

The board would prefer that Darryl ask the ZBA for a variance, then come back to the board for a site plan review. Each tower would need a variance and a site plan review.

Bruce suggest Darryl speak to the selectman about establishing a public telecommunications service. Governmental institutions, including the town, are exempt from town regulations. This would be a way for him to proceed without changing ordinances or even getting variances. The board would still want to hold site plan reviews on the installations.

(2) Review of contract with Nashua Regional Planning Commission.

Bruce has questions about how the costs described the Compensation section will actually be calculated.

Adjourn: Bruce makes a motion to adjourn. Mark seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 9:30.