

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
HELD BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
DECEMBER 1, 2014**

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Eric Prause, Chair
Andy Kidd, Vice Chair
Horace Brown, Secretary
Michael Stebe
Susan Shanbaum

Alternates: Patrick Kennedy
Teresa Ike

Also Present: Mark Pellegrini, Director of Planning
Renata Bertotti, Senior Planner
Ginger MacHattie, Recording Secretary

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m. The Secretary read the legal notice for the application when the call was made.

T-MOBILE NORTHEAST, LLC – Request to delete Article IV, Section 19.04.1(b), Section 19.04.2(b), and 19.04.3(b) to allow wireless telecommunications panel antennas greater than 72 inches in height and 24 inches in width – Zoning Regulation Amendment (2014-097)

Attorney Simon Brighenti spoke on behalf of the applicant, T-Mobile Northeast, LLC. He explained that recent changes in technology favor 96” antennas. The applicant would like to replace antennas on four towers. The current regulations limit antenna height to 72”. The applicant is proposing antennas that are 96” x 24”. The original restriction was set in 1997; technology has changed since then. The size of our phones has decreased but the capabilities of a wireless phone have increased. The Federal Communications Act says that a wireless carrier is to use the best and least intrusive technology. There is a gap in the coverage area in Manchester. The larger antenna is stronger and 16.7 dbi will be gained. If antennas are better utilized there will be fewer sites in the long run. CRCOG has no conflict with this application.

In response to a question from Mr. Prause, Attorney Brighenti explained that 8’ is the industry standard now.

In response to questions from Mr. Kidd, Attorney Brighenti explained that antennas are typically clustered in groups of three. This application is to replace one of the antennas with the larger size and the other two will remain the same. Each antenna has a specific purpose and specific areas on the antenna have specific missions; they are not interchangeable.

In response to questions from Mr. Stebe, Attorney Brighenti explained that the smaller antenna will be removed and replaced with the larger antenna. This will enhance the ability to use the existing signal. There will be no change to equipment and no additional equipment cabinets will be added. The phones are getting smaller but the information and data expected to come out of wireless phones has grown tremendously. The services and amount of information is increasing.

This is a capacity issue. More customers are relying on the same antenna cluster; more capacity is needed.

Ms. Bertotti said there are no staff comments.

Chairman Prause asked if any member of the public wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this application. No member of the public came forward at this time.

The public hearing on this application was closed.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**NOTICE: A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING CAN
BE HEARD IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT.**