

Carlisle Borough Planning Commission Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 5:30 pm

Members in Attendance: M. Webb, J. Werner, R. Pinnell, D. Maher, and M. Green

Borough Officials in Attendance: J. Woolston

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by R. Pinnell

1. Meeting Minutes

“That the Carlisle Borough Planning Commission unanimously approved the 1/26/23 minutes” with the correction of D. Mahrer to D. Maher

Motion by: M. Webb

Second by: J. Werner

2. Public Comments – The audience may request Commission Members address and/or discuss items not listed on the agenda. Commission members may choose, at their discretion, to address issues at a later date.

There were no public comments.

3. Land Development/Subdivision Applications

The Planning Commission may provide a recommendation to Borough Council for the conditional use request submitted by Brehm-Lebo Engineering on behalf of Cumberland County Department of Public Safety located at 1601 Ritner Highway. The applicant is requesting Conditional Use Approval of Article XIV, Section 255-99 A of the Zoning Ordinance for the construction of a tower-based wireless communication facility to be used exclusively by emergency services.

Doug Brehm of Brehm-Lebo Engineering, representing Cumberland County Department of Public Safety explained that the tower will be a self-supporting 195’ tall communications tower used solely by the County for emergency communications.

R. Pinnell asked about the use of “acknowledge”, especially in reference to fencing/screening. D. Brehm explained that by using the word “acknowledge”, the applicant acknowledges the statement/requirement and will abide by it. D. Brehm stated that a chain link fence will be installed around the perimeter of the base of the tower.

M. Green expressed concern about the proposed reduction to the existing retention pond. M. Brehm met with Borough staff, and it was realized that the current retention pond was installed to a size that is twice what is required. Therefore, by filling in a portion of the existing pond, it will still meet Borough requirements. M. Green also expressed concern with the visual appearance of this tower towards the residential neighborhood across from this property. Brian Hamilton, of the Cumberland County Public Works Department explained that the tower will

enhance the service area for communications and because it is less than 200' tall, no lighting is required. However, there will be a small pulsing red light on the tower that will be visible at night. During the daytime, the light will change to a white strobe light.

M. Webb asked if the County will be maintaining this tower and if in the future, this tower would be used for other entities. B. Hamilton stated that the County will be responsible for the maintenance of this tower. They have their towers inspected every four years by a third-party inspector. As for future use, this is a possibility; however, there are many state and federal regulations that would have to be considered before doing so.

D. Maher asked about the public hearing notifications, why posting the \$1,000 bond was not required and if there are any plantings proposed? Borough staff stated that the notifications to the property owners within a 200' radius of this project will be in the mail on Friday, April 28, 2023. The bond is not required due to the applicant being a government entity. D. Brehm stated that there are no plantings proposed for this project due to it being located within an industrial area and that no plantings will cover a 195' tower.

J. Woolston stated that a public hearing by Borough Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023.

That Carlisle Borough Planning Commission recommend approval of the conditional use application to allow for the construction of a tower-based wireless communication facility to be used exclusively by emergency services.

Motion by: M. Webb Seconded by: J. Werner.

4. Adjournment at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Woolston
Director of SCEP