

Notes from the Community Meeting (3-21-16)

Attendees:

BOS

Diantha McKeel – BOS

Ann Mallek – BOS

County Staff

Christopher Perez

Sarah Baldwin

Schools

Vince Scheivert

Ben Shiver

Robert Rejonis

Joe Letteri

Applicant

Lori Schweller

Kristen Stelzer (Milestone)

Mike Fisher (Milestone)

Citizens

Ms. Cruikshank

Robert Corley

Barbara Corley

Charles Stoke

Discussion: A citizen asked where the idea for the school property to be used as a tower originated from. Mr. Letteri answered: the schools were contacted by AT&T. Citizen asked by wasn't Jack Jouett Middle School looked at as an alternative site based on the lesser effect on neighbors. Milestone is a tower developer, they only work w/ public landowners like schools. They are the middle man between AT&T. They are proposing three arrays now and are open to a fourth. Each array has its own platform.

Charles Stoke was very concerned about the visual impacts from his house TMP 60-70Z and 70D (attached is a picture provided by Mr. Stokes from the balloon test). Also Richard Garrison was concerned with visibility to his home TMP 60-70Z3. Discussion was had about the number of towers within 4 square miles of the site: 32 towers (www. Antennasearch.com).

A citizen asked: can the tower function without the special exception to the standoff distance/flush mounting? The answer: yes it could function but would only be able to hold 1 antenna vs 4 with the platform. Thus it would have a total of 3 antennas per array vs the 12 antennas per array as proposed now.

A lengthy discussion about the science and health/safety effects of the tower and exposure followed.







March 7, 2016

VIA U.S. MAIL

RE: Balloon Test and Community Meeting for Milestone Communications Tier III Personal Wireless Service Facility (PWSF) SP201600004 Albemarle High School

Dear Neighbor,

Milestone Communications invites you to attend a balloon test on **Wednesday, March 16th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** at Albemarle High School, 2775 Hydraulic Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903, property of County of Albemarle School Board, with current Albemarle County Tax Map parcel number 06000-00-00-078A0. The balloon test will be conducted adjacent to the baseball field at the rear of the property. In the case of rain or high winds, the test may be canceled and rescheduled for **Monday, March 21st** at the same time and place. On the day of the original balloon test if the weather is questionable, please call me at 804-248-8700 for a status update of the test.

Milestone Communications has submitted an application for a special use permit to construct a 125 foot monopole with related equipment. The facility would serve County schools, fire, police, and rescue, as well as private wireless communications carriers. Milestone Communications has created a website to provide information to the public: www.albemarlehswireless.com. The website will be updated continually as additional information becomes available.

The purpose of a balloon test is to evaluate the potential visual impact of the proposed PWSF by raising to the height of the proposed monopole a large red balloon, photographing it from neighboring roadways and properties, and creating photo simulations with computer imaging equipment. Representatives of the applicant and the County will be onsite from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to walk the site and begin the balloon test. After 9 a.m., parties likely will be off site evaluating the visibility of the balloon.

Also, on **March 21st from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** a **Community Meeting** will be held to discuss the proposal in Room 36 at Albemarle County High School. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for residents to receive information and ask questions about the proposed project, County review procedures, and relevant regulations and policies of the County applicable to the proposed project. The applicant and County Staff will be available at the meeting to answer questions about the project and the review process.

March 7, 2016

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If you have questions about the Special Use Permit process or would like to comment on the proposal, please contact Christopher Perez, Albemarle County Senior Planner at 434.296.5832 ext. 3443 or by email at cperez@albemarle.org. Please note that this project is required to have two public hearings prior to County action on the proposal. These hearings will be advertised once they are scheduled; neither the balloon test nor the community meeting is a public hearing. If you have questions, you may also call me at the numbers below. We look forward to seeing you.

Very truly yours,



Lori H. Schweller

cc: Supervisor Diantha McKeel
Commissioner Mac Lafferty
Senior Planner, Christopher P. Perez (via email)
ARB Principal Planner, Margaret Maliszewski (via email)
Kristen Stelzer, Milestone Communications (via email)

E-mail: Lori.Schweller@leclairryan.com
Direct Phone: (434) 245-3448
Direct Fax: (434) 296-0905

123 East Main Street, Suite 800
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Phone 434.245.3423 \ Fax 434.296.0905

CALIFORNIA \ CONNECTICUT \ MASSACHUSETTS \ MICHIGAN \ NEW JERSEY \ NEW YORK \ PENNSYLVANIA \ VIRGINIA \ WASHINGTON, D.C.

Christopher Perez

From: TW <twjm2002@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Christopher Perez
Subject: Re: Cell tower behind AHS

Mr. Perez, we don't live in Georgetown Green. We live at 58 Court Place, a cul-de-sac right off Georgetown Rd., behind the Barclay Apt.

Thanks for your help. We are looking forward to hopefully getting better cell service with the new tower. :-)
Maria Wayne

On 7/26/16, 9:33 AM, "Christopher Perez" <cperez@albemarle.org> wrote:

Maria,

What is your address at Georgetown Green Subdivision? I would like this information for the staff report that's going to the PC on Aug 9th.

Christopher P. Perez | Senior Planner
Department of Community Development | County of Albemarle, Virginia
401 McIntire Road | Charlottesville, VA 22902
434.296.5832 ext. 3443

From: TW [<mailto:twjm2002@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 6:47 PM
To: Christopher Perez <cperez@albemarle.org>
Subject: Cell tower behind AHS

Dear Mr. Perez,

My husband and I live off Georgetown Road, and we work at AHS and Greer Elementary, respectively. We wholeheartedly SUPPORT your project with special use permit. We want to have cell coverage at our work and home. Currently, it is nearly impossible to make or receive calls in our home or at work. I trust that the project will be done well, and the esthetics are secondary to the safety the new tower will bring with better cell phone reception to police, fire and private homes.

Thank you for your attention.
Sincerely,
Maria Wayne

Christopher Perez

From: Schweller, Lori H. <Lori.Schweller@leclairryan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Diantha McKeel; Russell Lafferty
Cc: Christopher Perez; Kristen Stelzer
Subject: FW: WiFi in Schools
Attachments: Albemarle-wifi-letter.pdf

Good Morning, Ms. McKeel and Mr. Lafferty,

We have heard that citizens have raised concerns about the potential health effects of the proposed communications facility. As you know, the school already has a wireless communications antenna on the rooftop, so constructing the monopole would move the source of emissions further from the students. Regardless of location on the grounds, however, please know that the scientific community has thoroughly studied RF emissions, and the federal government has adopted maximum emissions standards, which far exceed the levels that communications facilities such as this operate within. As you can see from the emails below, the schools are fully-informed on the subject.

Ms. Cruikshank apparently raised the issue with respect to a library communications facility considered by the Board last year, and the attached letter prepared by the UVA Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was sent to the School Board to support their position that the health concerns are unfounded.

At Monday's community meeting, Kristen Stelzer of Milestone Communications has arranged to have a radiofrequency engineer on hand to address this subject and answer questions from the public.

Thank you,
Lori

Lori H. Schweller Attorney at Law

LECLAIRRYAN
123 East Main Street, Eighth Floor
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
(434) 245-3448 Direct
(434) 296-0905 Fax
(804) 248-8700 Mobile
Lori.Schweller@leclairryan.com
<https://www.leclairryan.com>

[LinkedIn](#)

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Rick Randolph [mailto:rrandolph@albemarle.org]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 5:23 PM
To: Schweller, Lori H.
Subject: Fwd: WiFi in Schools

Here is the letter from UVA.
Best regards,

Rick

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Vincent Scheivert <vscheivert@k12albemarle.org>
Date: March 14, 2016 at 5:17:46 PM EDT
To: Rick Randolph <rrendolph@albemarle.org>
Subject: FW: WiFi in Schools

I don't have one specifically about cell but this is for wifi in schools. Signed by the entire department.

Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer
Albemarle County Public Schools

From: Vincent Scheivert
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 12:15 PM
To: 'John Halliday' <halliday@jmrl.org>
Subject: RE: WiFi in Schools

From the department of Electrical Engineering at UVA.

Vince

Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer
Albemarle County Public Schools

From: John Halliday [<mailto:halliday@jmrl.org>]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Vincent Scheivert
Subject: RE: WiFi in Schools

Vince, that letter would be helpful. Thanks.

John

At 11:53 AM 1/29/2015, you wrote:

We had the issue come up last year at the Board of Supervisor's meeting from a concerned older gentlemen. We presented information from the FCC, the director of electrical engineering at UVA, and others. We also spoke directly to the study that was referenced by the gentleman which was found to be flawed.

I will look and see if I can't find that letter which may be helpful for you.

Vince

Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer
Albemarle County Public Schools

From: John Halliday [<mailto:halliday@jmrl.org>]

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:07 AM

To: Vincent Scheivert

Subject: RE: WiFi in Schools

Vince, thanks for your response. The libraries are not doing anything unusual. And even if we turned WiFi off we would still have signals from neighboring properties. As you know, WiFi is almost everywhere. My main question was how the schools respond to people, like the older gentleman referenced by Pam. Since the two citizens who approached the Library Board said their main concern was children, I'm surprised they didn't talk to the School Board first.

John

At 04:48 PM 1/28/2015, you wrote:

John,

The research concerning negative impacts of Wi-Fi have largely been debunked. Most of those studies have come from a case in Seattle and one in Canada. Both turned out bogus.

We can certainly assist to evaluate whether your access points would be exceeding safe levels. Just so we are clear, for you to be operating in unsafe conditions, your ceilings would need to be just barely larger than the people in the room or would have a series of major hardware failures. Neither scenarios seem likely, although I've only been in the Crozet Library. :)

A more common concern that we hear surrounds cellular transmission and its effects on the human body.

I have also included in the email Robert Rejonis, he is a wealth of knowledge about all things but in particular wireless.

Please let us know how we can help.

Vince

Vincent Scheivert, Chief Information Officer
Albemarle County Public Schools

From: Pam Moran

Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 6:20 PM

To: John Halliday; Vincent Scheivert

Subject: Re: WiFi in Schools

No - we've had an occasional concern from an older gentleman. Vince Scheivert the school division CIO has done significant research - I'm copying Vince to connect you.

Pam

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2015, at 4:28 PM, John Halliday <halliday@jmrl.org> wrote:
Hi, Pam. I hope you're doing well. We're looking forward to sharing space with the schools at the new Northside Library (scheduled to open mid-March). Question: Has anyone complained about WiFi in the schools due to alleged dangers of electromagnetic fields? Several months ago a Ms. Cruickshank asked JMRL to reduce WiFi in children's areas and last month Emerald Young asked us to minimize WiFi at the new Northside Library. We've researched studies on the topic and found no proof exposure to WiFi is dangerous. Just thought I'd check with the neighbors (you) to see if the schools have heard similar concerns from Cruickshank or Young or anyone else. If so, how have you responded?
John Halliday, Library Director
Jefferson-Madison Regional Library
201 East Market Street, Charlottesville Virginia 22902
Tel: 434-979-7151 ext.206; Fax 434-979-0278
grow. learn. connect. @ www.jmrl.org

* This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail with a copy to emailadministrator@leclairryan.com and delete this e-mail and all copies and attachments.

July 30, 2013

Albemarle County Schools

401 McIntire Road

Charlottesville, VA 22901

Attn: Ms. Eileen Gomez

Dear Ms. Gomez,

It's our understanding that the Albemarle County school system is being asked to remove Wi-Fi routers from buildings, primarily because of one individual's concerns for student health. It is our professional opinion as faculty members in UVA's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering that the County should not act on alarmist claims, and instead trust professional organizations that represent hundreds of thousands of engineers and scientists.

For a bit of technical data, Wi-Fi access points normally emit about 0.1 watt from the antenna. This power is radiated more or less uniformly in all directions, and at a distance of say 1 meter, the power density is at most 1 microwatt/square centimeter. This is 1000 times smaller than the standard for continuous exposure to microwave radiation established by the IEEE, the leading professional organization in our field (1). Furthermore, Wi-Fi signals are intermittent, or pulsed, and the *average* exposure is likely a factor of 10 lower than above. Though comparisons to exposure from a typical cellular phone are difficult to make, it's clear that Wi-Fi radiation exposure is far below that encountered in ordinary cell phone usage, as these devices radiate higher power and are in close proximity to the body. In addition, we have a history of more than fifteen years of living with these devices in our homes, workplaces, coffee shops, and malls, without any substantiated evidence of their health impact.

We will be pleased to provide further information if needed.

- 1) IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz, (2005)

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Wilson

N. Scott Barker

Avik Ghosh

Lloyd R. Harriott

Arthur W. Lichtenberger

Toby Berger