

**EAST LYME ZONING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 5, 2010
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Zoning Commission held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT.

PRESENT: Marc Salerno, Steve Carpenteri, Norm Peck, Matt Walker, Bob Bulmer, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: William Dwyer, Alternate
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-Officio, Board of Selectman

ABSENT: Rosanna Carabelas

1. Call to Order

Chairman of the Zoning Commission, Marc Salerno called this Special Meeting of the Zoning Commission to order at 6:00 PM. He noted that William Dwyer was seated at the table as alternate this evening.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

3. Filling the vacancy of a Regular Member (Mark C. Nickerson)

Mr. Salerno asked the commission for nominations for the vacancy of the Regular Member position vacated by Mr. Nickerson.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Carpenteri moved to elect Edward P. Gada of 3 Whitney Circle, East Lyme, CT 06333 as a Regular Member.

Seconded by Mr. Peck.

Mr. Salerno asked Mr. Gada if he would like to say anything to the commission. Mr. Gada then took the microphone and stated that he felt he was very qualified to fill this position, and thanked the board for their consideration.

Mr. Salerno then asked if there were any further nominations or comments from the public.

There were none.

Mr. Salerno called for a vote on the nomination of Mr. Edward Gada for the position of Regular Member on the Zoning Commission.

Vote: 4-0-2. Motion passed.

Mr. Salerno congratulated Mr. Gada and welcomed him back to the board.

4. Brief Discussion regarding SBA Towers II LLC proposed Telecommunications Facility at 49 Brainerd Road, Niantic, CT.

Mr. Salerno announced that per recommendation of the First Selectman there would be a brief discussion regarding the proposed Telecommunications Tower Facility at Brainerd Road, Niantic, CT. Mr. Salerno stated that the Town of East Lyme does not have jurisdiction over this matter. That there were regulations sited 10 years ago regarding cell towers, however they are not binding. Mr. Salerno stated that control has been given to the Ct. Siting Council over this matter. Mr. Salerno recommended that the commission send a letter to the Ct. Siting Council to express the concerns of the Zoning Commission and the residents of Brainerd Road, and request that the Ct. Siting Council meet the Towns regulations.

Mr. Dwyer expressed his concern that the discussion was premature due to the fact that there is a Regular Meeting scheduled on Thursday, January 7, 2010 and that by having this discussion the commission would be predetermining there position.

Mr. Salerno reassured Mr. Dwyer that this was not an application put before the board and not a public hearing, therefore there was no need for concern.

Mr. Salerno reiterated that the most the Zoning Commission could accomplish would be to write a letter to the Ct. Siting Council stating the recommendations of the Commission.

Mr. Bulmer stated that he had prior experience with the Ct. Siting Council and that the Town and the Zoning Commission in particular does not have any say over the building of this facility, however, he feels that they do have influence. He felt that what would be effective would be to present the Ct. Siting Council with an alternate site.

Mr. Dwyer stated that he was under the impression the Tower was being built primarily for use by the railroad. (Amtrak)

Mr. Peck stated that he has seen a Telecommunications tower that was made to look like a tree and felt that this would be appropriate if placed in a wooded area.

Mr. Salerno agreed that he has also seen this type of tower and that it would be more appealing.

Mr. Carpenteri asked for clarification as to how the location of these towers is decided, was it strictly a state decision, and that the town does not in fact have any jurisdiction.

Mrs. Hardy as Ex-Officio stated that we could choose alternate sites for recommendation.

Mrs. Hardy stated that another property owner located on Route 156 has stepped forward and offered the use of there property. Mrs. Hardy mentioned the reason both property owners are interested in offering the use of there property is due to the fact that SBC will be paying them a monthly stipend for the use of there property.

Mr. Salerno concluded that the Commission was in agreement to write a letter and that he would coordinate the appropriate staff to have this letter written with an attachment of the Town regulations.

Adjournment

Mr. Salerno called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Peck moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Zoning Commission at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0. Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted,

Zoe Zrakas, Recording Secretary