

Paul Foley

From: Chris.Mclsaac@cliffordchance.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 3:01 PM
To: foley@mvcommission.org
Cc: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov
Subject: Proposed Verizon Wireless Cellular Tower in West Tisbury

Dear Commissioners, Martha's Vineyard Commission,

I write to register my objection to the proposed Verizon Wireless cellular tower in the Coastal District at the top of Town Cove, Tisbury Great Pond.

I have been a summer resident of West Tisbury for more than forty years. Our family home, which we have owned since 1968, is located directly across Town Cove and roughly 1000 feet or so from the proposed 80 foot tower. My wife and I intend to become "washashores" and retire permanently to our family home in the next few years. The currently pristine views of the unspoiled upper reaches of Town Cove that we share with all public users of Tisbury Great Pond would be severely impacted by this proposed industrial development, a development that is wholly out of character with the unique Island shoreline and agricultural vistas that the MVC and the West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals are charged with protecting.

We have been quite dismayed to learn of Verizon Wireless' application and the manner in which Verizon Wireless has run roughshod over the MVC and West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals requirements that must be met for the Commission and West Tisbury to consider a variance from or a special permit overriding the current prohibitions against such a development. In particular, we note that Verizon Wireless has failed (i) to properly consider alternative locations and technologies that would have a less burdensome impact (including a more permanent version of the temporary personal wireless solutions that have provided adequate service in the past); (ii) to provide the photosimulations required by the West Tisbury zoning bylaws; (iii) to consider accurately the obvious, adverse and profound visual impacts of its proposed eight-storey tower; and (iv) to come close to meeting the requirements established under federal telecommunications law to preempt local zoning and conservation commission authority in this matter, despite terribly misleading and disingenuous statements in their application to the contrary. I am also concerned about the precedent that approval of this enormous tower would have for similar, and equally misplaced, developments in Coastal Districts around the Island—no one, I suspect, wants to see the shorelines we all love peppered with similar installations.

I urge the Commission to deny Verizon Wireless' application or, alternatively, to approve either (i) a less visually obtrusive "stealth" tower outside of the Coastal District that does not extend more than 15 feet above the ambient tree canopy, as required by West Tisbury zoning bylaws, or (ii) a facility within the Coastal District that is otherwise consistent with prevailing restrictions on height and use, to which all of us within the Coastal District cheerfully abide.

With thanks for your consideration in this matter,

Chris Mclsaac

34 Runner Road

West Tisbury, Massachusetts,

And

4907 Potomac, Ave., NW

Washington, DC

cc: Julie Keefe, Board Administrator, West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals

[CC]Office2[/CC]

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