

4 October, 2012

Box 400
West Tisbury
Massachusetts, 02575

ZBA

Tucker Hubbell, Board members, and Julie:

Re: Doane family trust and Verizon personal communications facility

Thank you for entering this letter into the record.

As you all know the ZBA issues the permits for personal communications facilities and for many other special projects and permits through out town. In general the policy is, I believe, to make sure that the neighborhood and/or community are not unduly burdened by the project which is the subject of an application. Thus, noisy pool equipment or emergency generators, and other “nuisances” should be located near the applicant rather than on the boundary where they can be a burden to the neighbors. This is the friendly and neighborly way to act.

When the neighbors discovered, in August of 2011 that the Doane family had been negotiating with Verizon for several years, and in total secrecy, to locate a personal communications facility very close to the Hayden house at 41 New Lane, and only marginally further from mine (M 31 L46) at 39 New Lane all of us in the neighborhood were shocked and upset. Acting as the point person for the neighbors I provided them with some information about how such projects are sanctioned by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 et seq, and what rights they had to request a change of location. We all agreed that the proposed location was unacceptable and some of us wrote or attended the initial meeting to suggest consideration of a location closer to the applicant’s summer residence and barn and further from the year round community. Unfortunately I was on the west coast but my letter then was read into the record.

This past summer Carl Gehring submitted the application and it appears that Verizon did respond to our neighborhood concern by locating the facility about 100 feet east of the Doane’s barn.

On the 13th of August, Robert Doane senior left a brief letter that he requested I sign. I am perfectly capable of writing my own letter so I have refused to sign his. Further, I do not agree with his assertions. All of us have found Verizon cell service to be perfectly adequate in our neighborhood, and throughout West Tisbury and the portions of Chilmark that we are assured this facility will service. My admittedly amateur test in

January from the intersection of the Blue Heron Road at the corner of the Gray Barn property showed 3 bars, the strongest signal of anywhere in WT except out by Crab Creek where I got 2 to 3 bars and excellent service. There was absolutely nowhere that I tested (approximately 30 locations) and got no signal or inadequate service.

Nor do I agree with the assertion – stressed by Carl Gehring – that property values would not be negatively affected by such a facility. I had an interesting exchange of messages with Robert La Porte who is the Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the valuation section of Colliers International (personal conversation); he sent me several case studies which indicate that the reverse may be true. Bob opined that he hadn't done a valuation of a property neighboring a cell tower but that it could adversely affect the value of one's property depending upon various factors.

The pine tree disguise for the facility is bogus – it looks and is fake, particularly in the middle of a mainly deciduous stand of woods. And our native pine trees don't grow to 70 or so feet either. It would stand out like a sore thumb.

However if the facility is to be located in the designated and currently proposed location I will not object (as if it would do me any good) however I see no need for any such facility and feel that Verizon's money would be better spent improving the quality of the lines past our houses. I dropped Verizon as my phone carrier due to lack of high speed internet access ("not enough copper in the lines"), which ComCast provides at a far less expensive rate for both phone and internet service. Further, we are constantly being assured that rather than vulnerable towers and overhead phone lines, buried fiber optic cables are the preferable choice for the future.

Again, thank you for including this in the record.

Virginia C. Jones