

**An update on the Planning Board's work
on Wireless Communications Bylaws and Standards**

For residents who are following this issue, we want to provide the following update:

- At our meeting on Tuesday Aug. 24, the Planning Board agreed to pause its work on two bylaws related to wireless communications facilities (cell towers and antennas) until we can complete a Needs Analysis and Wireless Communications Master Plan for the Town.
- To complete this Analysis and Plan, we will make a formal request for an allocation of funds at our November 2021 Town Meeting. If approved, the Town will then issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify the best firm to help us with this work. Using the data from the report, we should have a better sense of when we can get back to the bylaw work and a timeline for discussion and recommendations.
- Federal law and legal decisions covering wireless installations are complex. To be sure, we have learned a tremendous amount over these past months about all the issues – and sincerely thank the citizens who have attended meetings, provided comments, and offered suggestions to help. Our goals continue to be to:
 - Accommodate the growing need and demand for wireless communications services in the Town.
 - Protect the character of the Town while meeting the needs of its citizens to enjoy the benefits of communications services by specifying certain guard rails for installation of technology hardware (such as towers and/or antennas).
 - Establish review procedures to ensure that applications for communications facilities are reviewed for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations and are acted upon within a reasonable period of time as required by applicable state and federal regulations.
 - Minimize the impacts of wireless communications facilities on surrounding land uses by establishing standards for location, structural integrity, and compatibility.
 - Encourage the location and collocation of communications equipment on existing structures thereby minimizing new visual, aesthetic, and public safety impacts, effects upon the natural environment and wildlife, and reducing the need for additional towers.

Our latest materials

While we wait to return to bylaw work until after the Needs Analysis and Wireless Communications Master Plan is complete, we have posted two current bylaw drafts and their associated design and specifications standards on the Planning Board Homepage [here](#). Please recognize: These are drafts, and

a number of elements should be seen only as placeholders. By no means has the Board settled on recommendations to Town residents. We will have this discussion, in open meetings, when we have the hard data from the Wireless Communications Master Plan to work with.

To stay up to date

If you would like to stay up to date on this topic, please be sure you're subscribed to the Town's email list for Planning Board Meeting announcements and Minutes. The subscribe page is [here](#).

How to contact the Planning Board

If you would like to share your thoughts on this issue, you can submit emails to us at landuse@townoflenox.com. Jes Cote, the Town's Land Use Clerk, forwards all correspondence to us promptly, and retains all correspondence for the record.

Thank you!

Lenox Planning Board

Sept. 15, 2021