**Worcester Planning Commission**

**MINUTES**

**Aug 25, 2022, 5:30pm via ZOOM**

**Attending:** Chani Waterhouse, Will Baker, Toni Kaeding

**Guest:** John Kaeding, Selectboard

**Housekeeping**

* Toni called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm
* Chani moved to approve the minutes 8.4.22, Will seconded, unanimous approval

**Public Comments**

None.

**Cell Tower Follow-up – John Kaeding**

John reported on extended conversation with Clay Purvis, Director for Telecommunications and Connectivity, Department of Public Service. He offered options for improved cell service in Worcester:

1. Satellite – possibly a good future option but currently very expensive and somewhat weather sensitive resulting in inconsistent service.
2. Fiber optic – “whips” on poles could serve as local transmitters. Would provide service along roadways, but does not address the health risk of radio frequency radiation.
3. Cell Towers – Clay Purvis discouraged hiring of independent engineer to identify workable sites for a tower in Worcester. Suggested that engineer findings are consistently inconsistent and tend to follow the money. In response to the citizen suggestion that Worcester build our own tower, Selectboard research revealed that average tower price now approaching $1million and no monies available to support.

Proposed actions:

* Clay suggested to wait for results from State Drive Test, conducted by Dept of Public Service and Agency of Transportation, to determine where mobile service is missing. Slated to be complete by Sept 30, 2022.
* Selectboard will put engineer consult on hold for now but still under consideration.
* Selectboard to use Front Porch Forum to report conclusions to community, once finalized.

**Status of Town Plan Approval by CVRPC**

Selectboard sent final copy sent to CVRPC requesting approval. CVRPC plans review/decision at Oct 4 meeting.

**Looking Ahead**

As Toni ends her tenure as Chair, Chani has agreed to a 6-month trial as Chair, to be re-visited in February. First on the list of ACTIONS to be addressed:

Final production of Town Plan/CVRPC approval, Village Center Designation, and consideration of an enhanced Energy Plan.

**Matters Arising**

Amy Thornton has proposed a trial run of a “co-workspace” on the second floor of the Town Hall to the Selectboard and seeking Planning Commission support.

**Adjourn**

Chani moved to adjourn, Will seconded, meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

**Next meeting: October 20, 2022**

Toni Kaeding

Worcester Planning Commission