

Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum

Board of Trustees

PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes

An informational public meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees, regarding the proposed construction of a cell phone tower, was held at the Centerport Fire House, Centerport, New York, on July 18, 2012.

The following were in attendance:

Ronald A Beattie - President
Joseph Dujmic - 1st Vice President
Betsy Cambria - Treasurer
Kevin Peterman - Secretary
Thomas Glascock - Trustee
Michelle Gegwich - Trustee
Michael Mule - Trustee
Stephen F. Melore - Trustee
Anthony Guarnishelli - Trustee
Lance Reinheimer - Interim Executive Director
Legislator William Spencer – 18th Legislative District
Lora Gellerstein – Aide to Legislator Spencer
Ed Mooney – Suffolk Wireless
Mark Malizia – Aide to Legislator Spencer
Joe Buzzell – Buzzell, Blanda & Visconti
Ginny Watral–VHB Engineering, Surveying & Landscaping Architecture
Don Collins – Radio Frequency Engineer – Suffolk Wireless
Councilman Mark Cuthbertson – Town of Huntington
Stephen Jimenez – Legislative Aide
Rovert Pilnick – Resident
Bob Avallone – Centerport
Catherine Knight – Resident
William Walters – Resident
Michael Doherty – Resident
William T. Perks – Resident
Commissioner Harry Acker – Centerport Fire District
Jack Geffen – Centerport Fire District
Peter Hefter – Resident
Caroline Mule – Resident
Andy Mank – Resident

Tom Knight – Resident
Vincent Panettieri – Resident
Elaine Colavito – Resident
John Pokorny - Staff
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer
Other Interested Parties

Absent:

Gretchen Oldrin Mones - 2nd Vice President
Peter Gunther - Trustee
Rodney Rodriguez - Trustee
Duncan Armstrong - Trustee
William Rogers - Trustee
Dr. Steven Gittelman - Trustee

(Mr. Ron Beattie called the public meeting to order at 7 p.m.)

MR. BEATTIE:

We'd like to welcome you to the Vanderbilt Board of Trustees Public Meeting. I'd like to start out, if we could, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(SALUTE TO THE FLAG)

MR. BEATTIE:

Very good. Thank you all for coming. My name is Ron Beattie. I'm President of the Board of Trustees. We have a quorum of the Board available tonight, not the whole Board, but we have a pretty good showing from the Board.

I'd like to thank you for taking your time to discuss this cell tower proposal with us. I'd also like to thank the Centerport Fire Department for giving us this great facility to have this meeting. I know the last meeting that we had on this, there wasn't a lot of room. There wasn't a good audio, and we listened and we learned. We wanted to make sure that we gave everybody the opportunity to communicate with the Board here.

With that, what I'm going to do is kind of outline how we're going to do this today. We have a presentation from representatives from Suffolk Wireless, who are the vendors who won the bid for this proposal. They're going to present first and then what we're going to do – they will be available to answer any questions that might come up while we have this meeting.

The ground rules, per se, is that everybody – did everybody who wanted to speak fill out a card? The cards are over here. If you wouldn't mind getting them to Ann Marie, then she will get them to me. Everybody is going to be given three minutes to address the Board.

Without further ado, I'd like to introduce Joe Buzzell, who is representing Suffolk County Wireless.

MR. BUZZELL:

Good evening, Members of the Board. My name is Joe Buzzell. I'm an attorney, partner in the firm Buzzell, Blanda & Visconti with offices down in Melville. I'm also a resident of Northport. I live on Sandy Hollow Road, so I'm quite familiar with the Vanderbilt property and

have been going there for many, many years. This is the first time I've ever been in this building, I must say.

With me is Ms. Ginny Watral from VHB. They are planners involved in the application. We are still planning the arrival of Mr. Ed Mooney, from Suffolk Wireless, who is coming in from a meeting in New York City. I spoke with him last about four o'clock. He hit traffic because of the weather. Mr. Dan Collins, who will speak about FCC compliance, is coming in from New Jersey. The weather could have been a little more cooperative.

As indicated, we'll make a brief presentation. We will remain around and will be happy to answer any questions that the Board feel is appropriate for us to respond to.

The matter is not new. Much has happened prior to tonight's meeting. The Vanderbilt issued the original RFP in May of 2010. Suffolk Wireless was the successful respondent.

The proposal concerns use of an L-shape piece of land about 4,200 square feet. To put that into perspective, the Vanderbilt property is 43.3 acres. For those who don't deal in acres every day, the square footage is 1,886,148 square feet. The area that this license agreement would apply to is 2/10 of 1 percent of the overall property.

The area in question is located just south of the main entrance, a little more than 160 feet easterly of Little East Neck Road.

The RFP is designed to serve more than one function. The facility will remedy deficiency in telecommunication services. What that means is for individuals getting coverage on their cell phones, four carriers have already expressed desire on this site, AT&T, Verizon, Metro PCS, and T-Mobile.

Coverage up in the area is very limited. For individual looking to get service, it could be very spotty, and sometimes it's not available at all. You may remember that there was an incident that Noel Gish had talked about the last time we were here where an individual required emergency assistance but nobody could get a cell carrier signal on their cellular phone at that moment. When you're on a 43 acre property, there's not a landline in short walking distance.

The facility will also provide emergency services, such as the Fire District, for the emergency services run two ways, for the district as

well in the public sector, as well as individuals looking to contact emergency services. If you can't reach them, you cannot get them to respond.

It will cover the uses of at least four carriers. The third interest is the Vanderbilt which will be provided income as a land owner from this particular facility.

In this regard, the Vanderbilt is really doing the same thing that numerous other public sector property owners have done, which is, as a result of the Telecommunications Act and FCC regulations, wire coverage continues to expand -- continues to expand means we continue to get new facilities capitalizing on this -- towns, villages, Nassau County, Suffolk County, fire districts, water districts -- they are all seeking to utilize their properties to provide service particularly in difficult areas where it's preferable to the other locations, but also to derive the income.

The Town of Huntington does it, as well as the Town of Babylon, the Town of Oyster Bay and the Town of Brookhaven. I've been involved in all of those towns on those properties and not simply utilizing higher structures. In Babylon, Oyster Bay, Village of Amityville, in the Commack Fire District, down Ellwood Road, there have been monopoles of one sort or another developed.

What the application proposes in that 4,200 square foot area is the development of a 140 foot concealed monopole and the installation of associate ground equipment. The ground equipment basically is shed structures within which the carriers locate their equipment. The antennas, very much like the telephones or our stereos, do not work without the actual equipment. The hardware has got to go somewhere. It has to be in a rain proof secure environment. There is a fenced-in enclosure that goes around the 4,200 square foot area. There will be some plantings located outside of that for some additional screening. Each carrier has its own shed type structure within which it locates its equipment.

The proposal is for a concealed monopole, which means that the antennas go inside a sheathing and not visible outside the pole. A traditional monopole, when you look at the pole, it's a pole. There's an array of antennas anywhere from one to seven typically, because there are seven total licenses in the area, but typically three or four is very common, maybe five. You will see projecting out from the tower

an array of antennas pointing in 360 degrees. On this type of a monopole, the antennas are internal.

You will see that same type of monopole if you drive Ellwood Road, and I'm sure everybody in this room does, at the Northport Jewish Center and at the Commack Fire District, you will not see the antennas externally. At the Jewish Center what you're seeing is similar to what you have other than in terms of your coloring. The coloring designed on that one was blue up on top and brown to match the ground below. On that my client is flexible. We could paint it whatever color is deemed appropriate.

The Fire Department wanted a flagpole, which would be very nice but either you have to light the flagpole overnight or you have to have the flag raised or lowered every day.

What we're looking to do here is put the antennas internally, make it as modest as possible, and provide co-locations. One pole will serve up to six carriers so that you will not have a proliferation of poles. You will have one pole. All the ground equipment will be located within the same area.

We have had four carriers that have already given us indication that they are very interested, and they have the desire to go on the pole. The highest is T-Mobile at 130-140, AT&T at 120-130, Verizon at 110-120 and then Metro PCS at around 100-110. The reason I give approximate numbers is there is a fine tuning based on when each of those carriers does it own RF studies. They all have gaps in their grids. They all need to provide coverage.

Driving and being in and around this area regularly, sometimes you get signals but a lot of times you don't. Sometimes you get it and you won't hold it. Sometimes you'll get enough signal to get a text or an email, but they need to be able to provide service to individuals and then it provides emergency services. As I said, if somebody can't reach the fire district, the fire district has no idea that they are there. The fire district will also use whip antennas for their own independent purposes, very much as the Fire District has whip antennas on top of the pole on Ellwood Road.

I have Ms. Watral here, who has some exhibits she'd like to talk about a little bit. But basically in short, we have a license agreement that has already been won by our client who has proposed a modest use of 2/10 of 1 percent of the overall property in a screened-in area to

provide co-locations, less towers, plug gaps for emergency services for all the various carriers in one particular pole internal antennas for all of the carriers, further growth potential for up to six carriers.

Remember, there are seven licenses issued in this particular area of the country. So even if you don't see seven carriers right now, there are seven licenses. You may remember North Coast had one at one point, and then they folded. There are other – we can handle up to six, which would be able to cover the needs for multiple carriers in this particular area on one site. Unless the Board has any further questions for me, I'll bring Ms. Watral up.

MS. WATRAL:

Good evening. My name is Ginny Watral. I'm a Planning Environmental Consultant with VHB Engineering. Our offices are in Hauppauge. I have been a Planning Environmental Consultant for approximately 15 years.

I have worked on well over 100 similar facilities from Montauk Point to Staten Island and everywhere in between working with a company that specializes in generating post construction simulations based on construction drawings. We went out to the property and to the proposed location in that parking area that Mr. Buzzell was talking about. We located a crane at that location, extended the boom on the crane to the height of the proposed pole and used orange flags to facilitate visibility and reference points from the field.

We then went around in the area and tried to choose representative locations from where the proposed facility would be visible. I was not present at the meeting last year, but there have been a number of analyses that were done. At that time, I was involved in analysis that looked at potential visibility in a five-mile radius from this site.

Tonight what I have are computer simulated depictions of what the facility would look like after construction. I'd like to present them to you. I apologize for not having an easel. What I will do is I will hold them up. We were going to lean them over on the chairs, but we will find someplace else to put them so that everybody will have an ability to look at them at your leisure, which may be more appropriate than from where you're sitting right now.

I will continue to try to stay near the microphone, but I generally have a big mouth. If there's a problem hearing me, just let me know.

View point one is taken from near the event tent that is sometimes located on the property. You can see the existing vegetation from this location. From this point, there is very limited visibility of what the pole would look like. It was visible, but it is obscured by a lot of the vegetation.

View point two is taken from the mansion courtyard. From this location, the proposed pole would not be visible.

View point three is taken from the walkway near the planetarium entrance and the rose garden. It shows the existing building and the vegetation. From this location you can see that the pole would be visible. There are no antennas protruding from it, as Mr. Buzzell explained, except for the whip antennas at the top, which would be the fire department and emergency service antennas, as he described.

Those antennas cannot be – and I’m not a radio frequency expert – but I just know that those antennas cannot be located within the pole. They have to be installed externally. The whip antennas, which have nominal visibility, would be attached to the outside, but the pole would be visible from that location.

View point four is taken from the grassy knoll near the walkway and bench. The photo simulation shows that most of the pole would be obscured, but it would extend above the tree line, and there would be some visibility of the top of pole and those whip antennas from this location.

View point five is taken from near the carriage house. Again, it’s showing the existing trees and surrounding area. There would be some visibility of the top of the pole from this location and the whip antennas.

View point six is taken from the walkway between the carriage house and the marine museum. From this location, although the pole is visible, it does not extend any higher in the horizon than the existing tree line. And while it is visible from a planning analysis standpoint, we tend to look at things from breaking the visual horizon, something that is different than what is there now. Although it would be visible, there is no break in the horizon because from this angle the tree line is higher.

View point seven is taken from the walkway in front of the marine museum, and the crane was not visible from this location. So the pole would not be visible.

View point eight is taken from the upper level stairs of the museum. From this location, the pole, some of those whip antennas and the emergency service antennas would be visible above the tree line.

View point nine is taken from near the entrance to the museum looking toward that parking area and the proposed location. From this location you would see the pole. You would see the antennas, and there is some visibility of that fenced compound that Mr. Buzzell was talking about.

Then there's a map at the bottom here that shows exactly where those photographs were taken from.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Can you tell us –

MR. BEATTIE:

Sir, we're not doing the public portion just yet. There will be plenty of time to ask questions.

MS. WATRAL:

From this perspective we were looking at the potential impact to the storage significance of the facility. There has been a visual analysis done, and there were photographs taken from the surrounding community. I do not have those on boards. I can bring them back. I apologize.

I can pull up a map. I can go take a minute and pull up the information, and I can demonstrate to you. I do not have it posted on boards. I apologize.

MR. BEATTIE:

Very good. Do you have the RF Engineer here?

MR. BUZZELL:

The gentleman you're talking about would be Mr. Dan Collins, who is an FCC Compliance Expert, as far as RF, Radio Frequency Engineering testimony. Those engineers would be hired by the carriers. The carriers are not going to do the detailed work of their studies until such time as they are able to sign a lease. They are unable to sign a

lease with us now because we have not concluded the process at this level. They have indicated their desire to go on the facility, but they must do their own propagation studies to determine their exact type. We don't have access to all their internal data, but we have consulted them and four carriers have said they'd like to go on the facility.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, I thought they were going to be here. So that's the end of your presentation, Joe?

MR. BUZZELL:

I would indicate the Mr. Mooney has arrived. He's a representative of Suffolk Wireless. We are still waiting for Mr. Collins to arrive. He is coming from New Jersey. He seems to have had some issues with the weather. We hope he arrives before we conclude.

MR. BEATTIE:

At this point, I'd like to start the public consultation process here. What I'd like to do is begin with Legislator Spencer, who is here with us. When we get to the public portion of it, and I know I don't have to ask Dr. Spencer for this, but I'd like to just ask for a nice, civil discourse. I know it's somewhat of a heated issue with a lot of people. We have some supporters and some not so supportive of it, but we can all agree without being disagreeable. Let's kick this off with Legislator Spencer. Thank you for coming.

LEGISLATOR SPENCER:

Thank you, Ron. It's a pleasure to be here. First of all, I wanted to – and this is my first chance I've had to address the entire Board, but thank you for your hospitality for the last several years, but for me the last six months, allowing me to have my legislative office at the Vanderbilt. I really appreciate everything that you were able to do, and it was a wonderful home. The Vanderbilt has really become a place that's very near and dear to my heart.

I come today as a friend of someone that I appreciate the extremely difficult position that this Board is in. You have a responsibility to be able to promote, to be able to figure out how the Vanderbilt can continue to exist and to continue to be a site of historic significance that represents part of the culture of this community. I appreciate your hard work.

As the Legislator elected in this district, I feel that I have a responsibility to support you, to look for ways that you can find revenue and to look for ways that you can fulfill your mission.

Specifically tonight addressing the issue of the cell phone tower, I feel that it's important for me to look at situations like this not from a standpoint of taking one side or another, but it is important for me to consider and weigh the issue very carefully and to express what my concerns are.

Today I stand before you with several concerns. I hope that you will consider them carefully. One issue, with the cell phone tower, and I feel that there is a communication issue here in Centerport. I have fought to look for a place for a cell phone tower on my property in the past. I live across the street, and I know that there's a need. But I also realize, too, that there are a lot of important issues to be considered.

One, if you look at the overall long-standing or long-term mission of the Vanderbilt, it's to become financial solvent.

Although this could be a piece of the puzzle, it does not address the issue. The revenue that would be received is modest. My understanding is that it's between \$80,000 to possibly \$150,000. So that's one concern; that it doesn't solve the problem.

Two, my concern is the impact that it has on the community. We can see by my constituents who are out this evening that there is a lot of interest in this particular issue.

I think that if we look at the Little Neck Peninsula, it is an area where it is residential. It's an area where there has been a long-standing history of families that have built equity and value in their homes.

As a physician, I understand that there is no proof of any harm that would come from a cell phone tower. There is no proof out there. There is no medical proof. But there is a perceived issue of harm that I think places concern with residents of how it may impact their property values.

I think that's extremely important, especially when you look at people who have been here all of their lives, who have put a lot in their homes and may be about to retire and wondering what the impact of the tower would have on their homes. I think that has to be considered by the Board.

The other issue is when you look at the contract, and we're looking at 29 years, I've done a lot of research with my aides that there is alternative technology that's out there. There is something that's called small cell technology. I've been in contact with the company. We have had a conference call with him. This technology is up and running in Barcelona, Spain, as we speak. It is able to utilize boxes the size of Rubik's Cubes that can be placed on top of light poles. These boxes communicating together can provide communication that is necessary.

When we look at cell phone tower technology, and we talk about a 29 year leases, my concern is that we already see the new technology is already in the market. To enter into this type of endeavor, I really think that the Board may need to consider forward thinking in looking at the technology that's out there.

I will wrap up. I realize there are a lot of speakers. I'm glad you didn't put the three-minute timer on me. I appreciate the consideration.

The other issue is that for the Vanderbilt to continue to exist, we really need the support of the community. The community has to be behind the Vanderbilt to continue. When we have a community that its representative – I stand as the Legislator of this District, but all three Huntington Legislators do not support this initiative at this time.

I was contacted by Supervisor Petrone. There may be members of the Town Board who may address his concerns, but he's written a letter. Additionally, he called me personally to extend his apology for not being here but to say that he does not support this at this time for some of the reasons that I have already laid out.

I will work with you. I will work tirelessly to find a way to support you. I know that the Hotel/Motel Tax expires in 2015. I will continue to be an advocate for that. I will work with you to have you maximize your revenue through your catering and your planetarium. But I do think that to move forward with this revenue, although important, a very small source, and in a sense divide the community, in the long run could perhaps deprive the Vanderbilt's mission even more.

One last thing is that I think if we look at this Board, which I appreciate various backgrounds and expertise that you bring, one of the things that I've tried to do was to provide some geographic representation to the Board. I think that although each Board Member has equal vote, I do think that consideration should be given with the

concerns of Board Members who physically live in the Vanderbilt vicinity.

Thank you very much. If there are any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you, Legislator Spencer. I just wanted to point out that we do really appreciate all your support. That's why we didn't do the three-minute rule.

MR. BUZZELL:

We have found the visual analysis. It was turned in in April 2011, which shows the view from properties off the Vanderbilt property. I will leave that over on the chair, as well.

MR. BEATTIE:

I understand there is a Town Councilman here, Mark Cuthbertson.

MR. CUTHERBERTSON:

Thank you. Mark Cuthbertson. I'm with the Town of Huntington. I will impose a three-minute rule on myself, and I will be less than that.

I think that we have, as a Town, made our position clear on this issue. I won't repeat it again. I think we have on the record before this Board, but if you want, we can certainly forward that to you again. We share many of the concerns that I think Legislator Spencer just articulated.

We appreciate the good work that you do and the tough decisions that you're trying to make. I think if this was going to make a dent in the financial difficulties that the Vanderbilt has, perhaps it's something that we would take a harder look at.

I think it really, in terms of bang for buck, has a huge impact on the surrounding neighborhood and doesn't get the job done for the Vanderbilt. We, too, are here to help to whatever degree we can offer the assistance of the Town when it comes to funding for the Vanderbilt and other ideas that you might have in place to do that. I appreciate the opportunity to make those ideas known to you. Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you. As a reminder, if somebody came in late and didn't know, if you do wish to speak to the Board here tonight, there are yellow

cards that are in that serving area over there. If you'd like to fill one of those out and bring them up to our recording person here, then we will get you on the agenda.

To start the public portion of this meeting – and by the way, in fairness, we did this on a first-come-first-serve basis. So whoever came in, we wrote down a number on the card, so we haven't cooked the books when it came to bringing some people up. It's all on a first-come-first-serve basis. First speaker is Commissioner Harry Acker.

MR. ACKER:

I'm speaker as Chairman of the Board of the Centerport Fire Commissioners. I'm here With Dr. Jack Geffken and Commissioner Zeiss. Jack will speak a little more in detail of what we're going through.

With respect to the opinions of our neighbors, and we certainly understand some of the concerns both for and against it. That's our issue for being here.

Our issue is that we have a tremendous communication problem. In my eight years as Commissioner, we have dealt with the Chiefs coming to us with these difficulties, and we have gone to every known expert in the radio field. They say, "Yes, there are better radios and better technology, but it will never solve your problem. The current system you're on now is the best you're going to get because of the hills." We have a tremendous problem with the hills.

The only thing that's going to solve our problem is height. That's why the Board of Fire Commissioners is in support of it, because we can get that height on the tower, and it's going to give us a better range to be able to communicate. We have a lot of dead spots. Some people we know, and I think Jack will probably elaborate on a little more, is a lot of times we deal with other fire departments. They come and assist us. It's very difficult getting the information out; they need more assets. It's very difficult to get back to the fire house.

We are in support of this strictly as a communication issue. I will be yielding to Jack. I'm not a fireman; he's the guy out in the field. He has had the experience so he will be able to relay it better to all of you. Thank you very much.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you, Commissioner. I'd also thank you for the use of your building.

The second speaker is Jack Geffken.

MR. GEFFKEN:

I did speak at the Vanderbilt when you had your last meeting. Our concerns are still the same, like Commissioner Acker had spoken about.

Our number one thing is public safety. We have many issues from people not being able to access the 911 system from their cell phones in the area.

That also includes boaters on the water. There are a lot of reception issues with them, along with our own fire ground issues. Harry had said that we spent too many thousands of dollars trying to fix problems, and we have a very intricate system that just can't be improved upon without height.

Years ago, we had investigated a monopole ourselves, but we're down in a valley here. We were actually looking forward to that opportunity, if this went through, to get on that pole.

From a communications standpoint, it would benefit us, and it would also allow us access to E911.

I know nobody wants it in their backyards. It's a big problem. And I think that's –yes, The Vanderbilt does have financial problems. This may not be the solution, but it's a step in the right direction.

Having seen what's been going on for the Vanderbilt for the past 20 years, I think that the people in the community should really take a good look around there.

I know your hands are tied, but the condition of some of the buildings up there is really deteriorating fast. If you want to see this place close, you'll see what you're left with is going to be a lot worse than a monopole. Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

Bob Avallone.

MR. AVALLONE:

I'll try to do this in three minutes. I promise. My name is Bob Avallone. I'm a 15 year Centerport resident. Understand I am not anti-Vanderbilt. I am a friend of the Vanderbilt. I have been a member of the Vanderbilt. I know many of the Trustees personally. I tremendously respect what you do and the impossible job that you have. I think it's probably the worst Board to be on except for many of the school district boards.

I am opposed to the 143 foot cell phone tower that's proposed. I couldn't even find anything to compare it to. I couldn't find anything that big in this area, this residential area, especially on a historic site.

To put it into perspective, for those of you who didn't see the flyer that went around, 143 feet is just a little shorter than the Statute of Liberty. We're not talking about a telephone pole here. We're talking about a gigantic pole.

I would like to talk about something I said earlier in a meeting that we had at the Vanderbilt, and that's the elephant in the room, and the elephant in the room is money. I understand the Vanderbilt's money problems.

I also understand Suffolk County's money problems. I understand it's your job to try to get money here. I don't think this is the way to do it.

With regard to safety and safety issues, again, I'm in favor of cell service. I cannot believe that it's the Vanderbilt's province to say we will make cell service for the entire community, and it requires 143 foot pole. It doesn't.

If you were just concerned about service at the Vanderbilt, you could get a repeating tower, stick it in one of your buildings, nobody would see it, nobody would care, and you'd have cell service on the Vanderbilt, except it wouldn't generate any money, the elephant in the room.

I'm not a doctor, as some of the people in this audience are, so I'm not going to talk about whether cell towers are safe or unsafe. I will tell you that the Federal Government in my research has not. That's what Dr. Spencer said, that it has not concluded that they are unsafe.

It's the same Federal Government that said, "Don't worry about asbestos," and "You can smoke a little bit more; it's not a problem."

I will talk about public perception. If I took a poll in here right now, and I'd be happy to do, I assure you that many people in this crowd, myself included, believe that they are dangerous. As such, that's what affects home values. If you don't believe me, turn on your computers when you go home, and put in cell towers and property values. You will find that as a general rule, not just locally around here but everywhere, property values drop from four to ten percent. Four to ten percent of our home values will drop just by proximity to a cell tower that is not going to solve –

MR. PETERMAN:

Thirty seconds.

MR. AVALLONE:

Good Lord in Heaven. If I don't finish this, and someone wants to donate their time, I'd be happy to take it.

I will tell you that to put this thing forward when you don't have -- the three Legislators in our area are against it. The Town is against it. CEO is against it. The Parks Department is against it, as well. If you propose this through the Legislature, it's my opinion that they're going to see this as a desperate move – not a meeting of good faith, but as something like, "We'll do anything. We need the money." I think it will hurt the Vanderbilt.

Everyone who comes up here to now go and look at it to see if they want to have their wedding here has to pass a pole. Everyone who wants to go to the beach is going to have to pass that pole. Everyone who comes to the planetarium is going to pass that pole. I think it will hurt the Vanderbilt. It will certainly hurt the community.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

Catherine Knight.

MS. KNIGHT:

Good evening. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with you. I do have a number of concerns. I'd like to start with a couple of facts.

First of all, the money – it's been established that this is not going to save the Vanderbilt. But what it does do is open the door for the next vendor, the next piece of property to be leased out for some other business. This is setting a precedent for the Vanderbilt. It's also my understanding that it's setting precedent for parks because the Vanderbilt is part park.

I've seen many cell towers but not in parks. A question to the Board. Are there any cell towers in Suffolk County that are in parks?

MR. BEATTIE:

As far as I know, yes. But this is the public portion, so we're here to listen to you. My understanding is, yes, to that.

MS. KNIGHT:

Thank you. I'd appreciate knowing if I could talk to somebody afterwards as to where these parks are.

Secondly, this is for 29 years. Technology changes so much. I work in a school. Every five years we have to update our computers and our systems for our children so that they have cutting edge educational tools. Twenty-nine years seems absurd.

The RFP was done without wide community input. The elephant in the room, as far as I'm concerned, is the fact that now the Vanderbilt wants to know what the community that has to live with this thinks.

I've had no cell problems in 17 years of living on my property. I have called this fire house at least four times to report accidents on the S-curve that's behind my house. Never once did I have a problem. I'm not sure what that's all about, but if it's for boaters, then maybe it needs to go on the beach or maybe on LIPA's smoke stacks, someplace high where everyone can benefit.

I'd just like to ask, how many people here actually live on Little Neck Peninsula? Thank you. Of those same folks, how many people are in favor or this?

MR. PETERMAN:

Thirty seconds.

MS. KNIGHT:

Thank you. I'm done.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

I'd just like to interrupt this meeting for one minute. We do have the RF consultant here if he'd like to come up and say a few words. He was delayed because of the weather. Dan Collins.

MR. BUZZELL:

Mr. Collins came in from New Jersey, as I indicated, but he has arrived. He has prepared a report. I would ask Mr. Collins to briefly indicate to the Board what he has done.

MR. COLLINS:

I apologize for being late. There were all sorts of traffic, downed trees, floods and outages.

I was asked by the folks who would like to build this facility to perform an analysis, an independent expert analysis, of the radio frequency affects of the combination of two proposed carriers, T-Mobile and AT&T and to hypothetically load the tower up with four additional national wireless carriers arranged in the worse case possible in terms of radio frequency exposure.

I've just been here a few minutes, but I know – and I've heard this many times – that there is a perception that cell towers are all sorts of dangerous. For better or worse, the folks in this country don't know everything about radiation or exposure. I, at least, have a little bit of information here that may at least put some of those concerns to rest, at least for the people in this room.

You talk about radio frequency exposure in terms of percentages. To make the conversation actually simple, that way we could talk about radio frequency levels up to 100 percent as being expectable for the standard.

In this case, with T-Mobile fully loaded, AT&T fully loaded and four other national wireless carriers fully loaded, everybody at maximum power, the worst case conservatively calculated radio frequency exposure around this facility is about 9/10 of one percent of the FCC standard. It's more than 100 times below the standard.

Now let me put 9/10 of one percent into some perspective, and then maybe we can personally draw conclusions about whether, one, the standard is safe, and, two, this particular cell facility would be safe.

Human beings naturally omit radio frequency energy. Every human being in this room is omitting the equivalent of 1/4 of one percent of that same FCC standard. We omit, by the way, frequencies in the broadcast range about 100 megahertz.

Four human beings in close proximity actually cause a greater exposure to each other than this cell facility hypothetically loaded with four cell carriers.

Not only is it in compliance with the federal standard, but there isn't anybody in the world that actually thinks that four human beings close together cause a radio frequency level that's harmful.

I will take questions if you like.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, Dan, what we're going to do is we're going to continue the public portion. Then if there are questions for any of the Suffolk Wireless people, we'll deal with that later.

William Walters.

MR. WALTERS:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Vanderbilt Board, I'm Bill Walters, a neighbor, and I'm grateful for this opportunity to address you this evening.

As a former teacher of American History at a nearby school district, I am particularly grateful for your recent successes to help preserve the important history represented at the Vanderbilt. Thank you for all your efforts.

That being said, I'd like you to take a closer look at the current cell tower proposal and how its carried out would have enormous negative effects not only on the Centerport community in general but have harmful unattended effects on the Vanderbilt itself.

First, the Vanderbilt is the only historic place in the area. For example, boarding the proposed location of the ugly and potentially dangerous 143 foot high cell tower is the beautiful tree lined street known as Idle Day Drive.

By the way, to address what this gentleman said, Dr. Todd Cummings was supposed to be here tonight. He just texted me. He's an

oncologist. He believes strongly just the opposite of what that gentleman has said, that it is potentially very dangerous in causing cancer. He will forward you information on that.

The FCC has been bought off by the cell phone industry, obviously.

But anyway, getting back to the beautiful tree lined street known as Idle Day Drive, once the entry way to the famous Van Iderstein Estate, and now the home of many families, many with young children who have invested their life savings there. I've been there since 1975. I have seen all these young people come in.

The property there is in very close proximity within 500 feet or less -- several of them, from where this cell tower is proposed and at least in several locations that I'm aware of despite what may be shown in some of the distorted pictures this evening.

MR. PETERMAN:

Thirty seconds.

MR. WALTERS:

The cell tower – could you just give me a little more time. I had to interject here. The cell tower, as Bob said, will be just slightly shorter than the Statute of Liberty.

This is not nearly an economic issue. This is a moral issue. It is morally wrong to expect the people of Centerport to pay in the form of depreciated property values for an iffy proposition that is too little to have a meaningful impact on the Vanderbilt budget.

MR. PETERMAN:

Time is up.

MR. WALTERS:

It is a proven and unarguable fact – you're going to cut me off?

MR. BEATTIE:

If you could wrap up real quick –

MR. WALTERS:

Would somebody mind giving me some of their time?

MR. BEATTIE:

No, it's going to be anarchy here, if we're going to do that. In the sense of fairness –

MR. WALTERS:

You're cutting me off.

MR. BEATTIE:

In the sense of fairness, everybody has three minutes.

MR. WALTERS:

Can I have three more seconds?

MR. BEATTIE:

You can have ten more seconds. Wrap up, please.

MR. WALTERS:

This proposal would also saddle the people of Centerport with a 29 year lease regardless as to whether the Vanderbilt stays in business or not.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to do some real soul searching. I hope that you will come to the logical conclusion that hundreds of Centerport residents have already concluded – many of whom signed a petition against this misguided proposal that this cell tower has no place in our truly beautiful historic and family oriented community. I ask you to –

MR. BEATTIE:

Bill, I'm sorry but we gave you more time –

MR. WALTERS:

-- visualize putting this monster tower in your own backyard –

MR. BEATTIE:

Bill, I'm going to ask you to step down –

MR. WALTERS:

If you don't want it in your backyard, I would say, don't put it in our yards.

MR. BEATTIE:

Michael Doherty.

MR. WALTERS:

I'm sorry you didn't allow me to finish, but maybe I could have someone else's time.

MR. DOHERTY:

Good evening, Michael Doherty, past Commodore of the Centerport Yacht Club. We support the Vanderbilt. We have people that come from Connecticut to visit our beautiful yacht club. Every weekend 30 boats come from Connecticut and the surrounding areas, and we direct them up the street to come to your beautiful museum, and it's our pleasure to do that.

Number one, I don't understand for \$100,000 why you guys would do this to our community. I live at number 10 Idle Day Drive. I'm going to look exactly right across the street at this tower. I have been there since 1991.

Aside from the aesthetic issues here and the monetary issues, it makes no sense to me. You guys are looking for community support, but you're going in the opposite direction.

I have belonged to the museum for many years. I stopped going because your exhibits were static and boring. You guys are in charge of that. You need to shake that up and make this museum exciting. I think that's how most of the community feels. I can't help you with that. You, as a Board, have to address that.

When this thing came up, my first reaction was, why would you do this to us? My neighbors are here that have – Idle Day Drive is one of the most beautiful streets in Centerport. What we don't have is a water view, but if you stand on my roof, you'll have a water view. It is a beautiful, wonderful place. What you guys are proposing is going to really destroy that.

The attorney who spoke here is saying that you're not going to be able to see it. How can you disguise a 143 foot tower? You're talking about antennas and – this thing is going to be 143 feet. Vinny lives behind where this thing is going to be. He's going to be in his swimming pool looking up at this 143 foot tower. It's crazy.

I'll just say what Bill said. Please, when you're talking about \$100,000, it isn't going to make a big difference to the museum. When you vote on this, vote with your heart, what you really – if it

was your house, where I live, looking at that, vote with your heart. I can't believe you guys would vote affirmatively for that.

MR. PETERMAN:

Thirty seconds.

MR. DOHERTY:

I'm finished. Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

The next speaker is William Perks.

MR. PERKS:

My name is William Perks. I live on the peninsula at 85 – I mean, 79 Prospect Road. My family has been here for many generations. That was my parent's address, 85 Prospect Road.

I was a member of the Trustees at the Vanderbilt Museum back in the 1990's, so I take my hat off to all of you. You do an incredible job, and it's only getting worse.

The reason I say that is after desperately trying to work on that museum, I can't tell you, I've been in every attic, every crawlspace, every building. My heart breaks every time I go passed that boathouse and that seaplane hangar. That was my dream to get the waterfront part of it finished. We're a waterfront community. That's the way to bring the people back, not down Little Neck Road, but that was the plan back then. No tents. Let's get the people in the seaplane hangar, so that we don't have noise and bother our neighbors.

There have been great attempts in the past. I will leave you with this. I finally went to the County Treasurer's Office. His name was John Cochrane. He wasn't the attorney for O.J. Simpson. He was the County Treasurer. The guy said, "Listen, Perks. It is a convoluted system designed to fail." I said, "What are you talking about." He said, "It's not in the Park's system. You're out on your own. The Legislators all here will vote for you, in most cases, but the ones out east are not going to help you. You're not going to make it."

The capital budget is where you're either going to save or lose that museum. Everyone here has seen it. That seaplane hangar has been in that capital budget year, and it gets ousted.

All I can say is everybody here should become a member, if you're not a member of the Vanderbilt Museum, and support these people, because God only knows they need our help. That's the end of my three minutes.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thanks, William.

Peter Hefter is next.

MR. HEFTER:

Peter Hefter. I live at Plaisance Beach. We are your direct neighbors. We are just north of the Vanderbilt Museum. We have been to you guys at meetings when you guys had 16 weddings on the property. We were calling the police nine times every weekend. This visual impact on this view is what people at Plaisance Beach are going to see every day when they drive out there.

You talk about property values being down four to ten percent. I won't be able to sell my house. If somebody is going to come in and they're going to drive out of Gina Drive and see that.

I understand from meetings with you guys, that you can't invade the corpus. If you're invading the corpus, then why don't we just give the property back to the family? Let the family pay the taxes.

Only two of you live on the Neck, right? Seven out of nine or eight people don't live up on the Neck. All of us live up on the Neck. We care about the property. We want to preserve the property. But seven out of nine of you want to have this tower and make a monstrosity out of the Vanderbilt.

Mr. Vanderbilt himself would be like, "Are you kidding? A cell tower on my property? It's Eagle's Nest." That's his property. He built that property with his own sweat. It's sacrilegious to put a cell tower on that property.

Anyway, I don't have anything more to say. But I would like to meet with you guys. The members of Plaisance Beach would like to meet with you guys and discuss how we can help you guys and how you

guys can be our neighbors. We have been trying for years to be your neighbor, but you guys have not reached out to us at all.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

Andy Mank is next.

Oh, wait. I skipped Caroline Mule by mistake.

MS. MULE:

I believe I timed myself. It's three minutes and twenty seconds. Will you let me have that extra time? My name is Caroline Mule. I live on the peninsula in Centerport. I also hold a family membership card at the Vanderbilt Planetarium and Mansion parkland, and I embrace people parking on my front lawn and hearing music from the events because it means that the Vanderbilt is alive and kicking.

It was once – sorry, it's emotional for me. It is our choices that show who we truly are far more than our abilities – sorry – it's very emotional.

I speak tonight because I've been given an opportunity to, Choice A, stand by, complain, point blame, do nothing, offer nothing about a potential cell tower right on the peninsula in Centerport right on the Vanderbilt historic parkland.

Choice B, be open minded, listen, think about all the options that are available to the Vanderbilt historic park and make an informed decision so I can avoid a cell tower on this beautiful property and on this beautiful peninsula. I choose Choice B.

It is not rocket science to know that the Vanderbilt needs to increase revenue. There are various ideas and possible solutions. I need to hear solutions. I need to do solutions. I need to move forward. This has got to end.

We have a state-of-the-arts projector being installed. It's here. It's now. It's done. We're not waiting for it. We'll all love it because science fascinates us.

We have a gold coast mansion that breathes history, regardless of Willie K., for better, for worse, it's a beautiful mansion on the water with 43 acres.

It's the first mansion or the last mansion on the gold coast mansion chain on Long Island. We are part of that. It stands in our present day and teaches and guides us now. This is not coming out the way I thought it would.

Depending on where you live on the North Shore of Long Island, we are a gold coast mansion. You need to treat the whole peninsula with gentle care and protect the heritage and history from the entrance of 25A on to Little Neck Road and all the way to the water. Centerport is a breathing history that stands and teaches us now.

We need access to the waterfront at the Vanderbilt. You see, that costs too much for the boardwalk and the seaplane hangar right now.

MR. PETERMAN:

Thirty seconds.

MS. MULE:

Okay, start small. We have road paths leading down to the water that start right at the curator's cottage/wedding planner cottage. Nice to see a cell tower there. Here, have your wedding here.

Clean up and clear up the trees and bushes, and you have people enjoying a hike on 43 acres. We have paths leading down to the boathouse right on the beach and water. Restore the building. Make a B&B out of it. Maybe just even for one couple. Hey, maybe the bride and groom. Or maybe the boathouse is a place where juice drinks and cheese and crackers are served on the beach. Put some café tables or picnic tables on the beach with umbrellas so people can enjoy the waterfront. It's cheap, effective, quick, doable.

MR. PETERMAN:

You're going to have to wrap it up, please.

MS. MULE:

Okay. Put a mooring out on the dock so boats can come by land or by sea and enjoy the Vanderbilt day and night. Maybe they can even stay up in the clock tower or in the house across the street. Build a stairway down from the mansion, as well, so they can get down to the waterfront. The waterfront is your key. It is the beginning of a very viable means to make revenue. Put up signs and inform us all the time. Get original kitchens going in the basement with an outdoor access area and –

MR. PETERMAN:

Time is up, please.

MS. MULE:

And ultimately maybe we will have the seaplane hangar restored.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thanks, Caroline. And now you're reading this letter for Andy Mank?

MS. MULE:

Yes. Sorry, that really needed to come out more effectively, but you get the point. We have solutions. We have options. Now I'll read the letter.

"I give permission for this letter to be read into the record of tonight's meeting in my absence by Caroline Mule. Thank you for hearing the thoughts of the neighbors. I have lived in Centerport for over 17 years and reside four-tenths of a mile from the proposed tower."

"I am sure information will be presented tonight about the location, size, make-up, color and intended usage of the tower. I understand a model tower was erected and photos taken. I would have welcomed the opportunity to know about that and drive by to freely see the structure. I can only conclude that there is no way to avoid visibility of a structure that's over 140 somewhat feet tall from the road and neighborhood."

"Erecting a 140 foot cell tower on historic property and parkland in the middle of a residential community warrants very serious long-range consideration."

"While the size, shape, etcetera of the tower are important, there are many other vital questions that need to be answered before the neighbors, community, Board and Legislature can make a truly informed decision."

"I, Andy Mank, ask that answers to these seven long-range issues be presented to the community in a follow-up meeting before any further decisions are made."

"One, what is the full duration of the contract, including any optional extensions?"

"Two, will any additional cables need to be installed on the telephone poles along Little Neck Road?"

"Three, will money in the escrow under the museum's control pay for removal of the cell tower at the end of the contract and in the event Suffolk Wireless insolvent or default."

"Four, what is the financial short-fall that will remain even with the cell tower revenue? How and when will this be addressed?"

"Five, what written legally enforceable guarantee will prevent the construction of additional towers on the property?"

"Six, what written and legal enforceable terms are in the contract to prevent the tower and decisions about construction of additional towers from falling under private control should the museum become insolvent?"

"Seven, what provisions in the contract limits the type of technology that can be installed on the tower over the life of the contract?"

"The Board also needs to consider the added questions that nothing but time will answer. One, what precedent will this project establish for compromising another town, county or U.S. parkland?"

"Two, with cell tower technology and the way that the transmission is ever changing, there is absolutely no way today to measure the long-term health risks the tower will bring tomorrow over the life of the contract. What will the real health impact be?"

"Three, who will pay for any health impact that is clearly attributable to the tower erected by the museum?"

MR. PETERNMAN:

Thirty seconds.

MS. MULE:

"Four, what will the short and long-term impact be to the neighboring property values as a result of all these factors?"

The museum's stated missions include thoughtful preservation, interpretation and enhancement of the Eagle's Nest Estate as an informal educational facility. Its character is not to improve the quality of already adequate cellular coverage or pursue its mission without

consideration for the long-term impact of the neighbors and community.”

“I, Andy Mank, am strongly opposed to the cell tower and will remain willing to help the Board’s pursuit in alternatives and solutions that do not come with long-range risk and impact to the community.”

MR. PETERMAN:

Time is up.

MS. MULE:

“Example, cubes could be used and/or femtocells could be used in replace of the cell tower.”

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

Tom Knight.

MR. KNIGHT:

I’m Tom Knight. I live on Morahapa Road. First, I’d like to know is there supposed to be a light on the top of this thing?

MR. BEATTIE:

No.

MR. KNIGHT:

About a year ago, I attended a meeting at the museum. I think Cooper was running it. We were discussing the cell tower and some alternatives for the Vanderbilt. A lot of people were very willing to help come up with alternative ideas for raising revenue for the Vanderbilt.

At that time, we were promised that there would be further meetings and that we would get together as a group to be called the “Friends of the Vanderbilt.” What happened to the “Friends of the Vanderbilt?” Why hasn’t the Vanderbilt contacted the people who were at that meeting to get us back together so that we could discuss some of these alternative plans? I emailed a representative of the Vanderbilt asking when the meeting was going to take place. I never heard back.

As far as the Vanderbilt wanting the community’s help, I wonder about that. It’s a shame that you didn’t get in contact with us to have us

come together and try to discuss some of the alternative plans. I don't understand why that didn't happen.

This is from emwatch.com "Cell phone towers cancerous. A study performed by doctors from the German City of Naila monitored 1,000 residents who had lived in an area around two cell phone towers for ten years. During the last five years of the study, they found that those living within 400 meters of either tower had a newly diagnosed cancer rate three times higher than those who lived further away. Breast cancer topped the list by cancers of the prostate, pancreas, bowel, skin melanoma, lung and blood cancer were all increased." That's a Naila Study, and it's on emwatch.com Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

Vincent Panettieri is next.

MR. PANETTIERI:

Listening to what everyone else has said -- I live at 3 Idle Day Drive. I've been in Centerport for over 30 years. Besides the Mule's, I'm probably the closest property in proximity to where this tower is going.

I agree with the last gentleman. I went to the meeting a year ago. They wanted to form this "Friends of the Vanderbilt." There are all kinds of groups in the Little Neck Peninsula. There is the Centerport Yacht Club, the Huntington Crescent Club, the church. They raise money, over \$1 million a year, without having a cell tower on their property.

My backyard is probably the closet view of that cell tower, and I haven't heard anything about this "Friends of the Vanderbilt." The clambake the other night, I wasn't able to go. I bought six tickets and gave them out. I'm more than willing to contribute and help to come up with ideas. It is a beautiful piece of property, but I think if you do this, you're going to lose the community. The community is what supports all these other organizations.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

Okay, that was it. Thank you all for coming. We are going to vote on this at our next Board Meeting. We, obviously, have a lot to discuss.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Can I ask a question? How do you guys all feel about this?

MR. BEATTIE:

We're here to hear from you guys. We will have our deliberations at the next meeting.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

But how do you feel about it?

MR. BEATTIE:

That's not what we're here for, sir. It's just not how this works. Does Suffolk Wireless have any other comments?

MR. BUZZELL:

No, unless the Board has any other questions. We acknowledge that we didn't expect the Board to vote tonight. Obviously, the Board has to think about everything it's heard here and anything that it may have acquired through other sources and will render its decision at upcoming meeting.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you all for coming.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Can we ask questions?

MR. BEATTIE:

We had the public comment period. That's how we did it. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Before you do that, I thought we were going to be able to –

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

We still have questions; that's all.

MR. BEATTIE:

We're not here – this is not a public hearing. It's a public meeting. We wanted to hear from the community, and that's what we did hear. We were very fair –

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

I thought it was said that it would be open for discussion after the public spoke.

MR. BEATTIE:

Everybody got three minutes to discuss this. That's the way this is set up.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

But there was supposed to be back and forth –

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

You're trying to ram it through.

MR. BEATTIE:

No, we're not. You know, we sit here. You come to our meetings; we're not trying to ram things – if we were trying to ram things through, we wouldn't have had this meeting because we didn't have to have this meeting.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

I know we had three minutes to speak, but there are still questions.

MR. BEATTIE:

We just had a discussion over here. The questions can be directed to Suffolk Wireless. If there are any questions that you want to ask of them, again be recognized. Come to the microphone and state your name again. Does anybody have any questions for Suffolk Wireless? Come up to the microphone and state your name.

MR. THOMAS:

My name is George Thomas. I've been living here in Centerport, the peninsula for 37 years. Question, what's the diameter of this tower? It goes up 143 feet, but what's the diameter?

MR. BUZZELL:

It's 36 inches at the top, and --

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

You're kidding me. You're an expert, and you don't even know –

MR. BUZZELL:

I'm an attorney not an engineer. The poles are different depending on their capacity, depending on their height, depending on their location.

They taper slightly as you go from the bottom to the top. It's about four feet at the bottom, and it's about 36 inches at the top.

MR. THOMAS:

Are there any other towers of that size nearby here?

MR. BUZZELL:

Do you mean that width?

MR. THOMAS:

That height and width.

MR. BUZZELL:

The Commack Fire Department's is 125 feet high.

MR. BEATTIE:

I'm sorry, but can we have quiet in the back? The people recording can't hear.

MR. THOMAS:

Are these minutes going to be published?

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes.

MR. THOMAS:

These answers to these questions are going to be published also, right?

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes. Anybody else? Go ahead, sir. Please identify yourself for the record.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

Yes, my name is Steve Goldstein. I live in Centerport. Can you tell me who the carriers are that you will be using immediately and in the future if this goes through?

MR. BUZZELL:

The facility is designed to hold up to six carriers. Each carrier would have to sign a sub-license agreement with Suffolk Wireless. Right now the carriers that have indicated their desire to go on the pole are AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon and Metro PCS.

MR. BEATTIE:

Sir, can you identify yourself?

MR. DOHERTY:

Michael Doherty. There's 43 acres, and you decided to put this tower in Vinny's backyard, basically, across the street from my house. Why not put it on another part of the 43 acres? I'll answer that question myself; because it's unsightly.

MS. WATRAL:

I was not involved in the original siting location and how it was determined, which I believe was part of the RFP process. However, from a standpoint of functionality, it is the highest point of the property. It also is that part of the property which is least available to the public and would be out of the way of the public portions of the property –

MR. DOHERTY:

Are we not public here? You're going to put in our front yard.

MR. BUZZELL:

We're answering questions. It's their decision whether to approve it or not.

MR. DOHERTY:

I understand. I'm asking a simple question. Most of us here –

MR. BUZZELL:

The RFP was started by the Vanderbilt. My client responded to that RFP.

MR. DOHERTY:

I would then address the Board. With 43 acres, does it need to be staring at us in the middle of the community?

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you. Are there any other questions for Suffolk Wireless?

MS. COLAVITO:

I'm Elaine Colavito. I live at 8 Idle Day Drive, across from Vinny. I have a bird's eye view, also. I know someone asked this already, but I'd like to clarify. There will be no light on top of this 143 foot --

MR. BUZZELL:

There will be no light on top of the tower. Because we are not putting a flag on it, we're not going to light it.

MS. COLAVITO:

No flashing beacon? No light?

MR. BUZZELL:

No.

MS. COLAVITO:

Promise?

MR. BUZZELL:

No light. It's not required given the location.

MS. COLAVITO:

So all our street will see is a structure but not a light.

MR. BUZZELL:

Most of the monopoles, when you drive around, do not have lights on top of them.

MS. COLAVITO:

I just wanted to make sure before I make any more decisions. I also have had cell phone service for 32 years -- I haven't had a cell phone for 32 years, but I've lived there for 32 years. I have had a cell phone work in my house. That's all. Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Could you just fill out one of the yellow cards for us? Thank you.

MR. AVALLONE:

My understanding is that we picked this site because it won't be seen from the mansion itself, because it's on the State Historic Registry. You can't see it from there. Is that why you picked that site?

MS. WATRAL:

Again, I was not part of the decision of how it was determined. That was part of the original RFP, but it's to keep it away from publicly accessible places because although the compound is a small area, relatively speaking, to the 43 acres, it is an area that will be fenced off. So it is an area that is a parking lot. I believe there is a storage

container over there, so it's an area that is not part of the public access or a public gathering place on the property.

MR. AVALLONE:

But my understanding is it has to be there because it can't be seen because –

MS. WATRAL:

It's not that it can't be seen. The views that were taken demonstrate that there is limited visibility because the mansion goes down and because of the way the topography changes in the area, that there is limited visibility from the mansion. There is also limited visibility from areas to the north of residential off the property because the topography changes. There are limited areas of visibility because of the tree cover and because of the topography.

MR. AVALLONE:

Maybe it's the accessibility not visibility, but my understanding was that it impacted on the State Historic Registry, which would lose additional money from the State if it was on the –

MS. WATRAL:

Not necessarily. As far as revenue is concerned, the State would have to review it, and they would make a determination.

MR. AVALLONE:

My understand is that the State does have to review it, but it has to go to the Legislature. If they approve it, it goes to the State.

MS. WATRAL:

It's also part of the Regulatory approval process for the pole itself and for the carriers. They would have to get that reviewed.

MR. BEATTIE:

Can you please fill out a card before you leave?

MS. HEFTER:

Yes. My name is Lindsay Hefter. I live at 12 Hollise Court. I have three young children. As much as I respect science and medicine, is as much as I don't. I don't think anybody could convince me that these don't have health consequences, especially for young children. I will not allow my children to have a cell phone, because I do not want a phone up to their heads and their little, young brains. I don't think that it's totally known whether these things are really that safe.

Maybe they are, but maybe they're not. I truly don't want that risk taken.

I bring my kids to the Vanderbilt. We go down there in our pajamas. We love the planetarium. We will do whatever we have to in order to help. Please don't put a cell tower someplace where it can hurt my children. Please don't do that to us. I don't even care what it looks like. I just don't want my children to be in an unsafe place.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you.

MR. HEFTER:

Peter Hefter. How much money is it costing Suffolk County Wireless to do this, to install?

MR. BUZZELL:

What do you mean, do this?

MR. HEFTER:

To install the tower itself? You said you had contracts with AT&T and Verizon – you said they showed interest.

MR. BUZZELL:

They have indicated the desire to go on the pole. They have not issued any legal sub-license agreement.

MR. HEFTER:

In terms of money, how much money does it cost Suffolk Wireless to put the pole on the Vanderbilt property?

MR. BUZZELL:

Do you mean much money they are paying to the Vanderbilt?

MR. HEFTER:

How much money is it costing –

MR. BUZZELL:

The hard construction cost or the application cost?

MR. HEFTER:

The hard construction cost, the application cost, everything. What is it costing you guys?

MR. BUZZELL:
About \$300,000.

MR. HEFTER:
Okay, when the construction starts, is it going to upset the people on Little Neck Road? Is any of the construction going to upset any of these home owners who drive up and down Little Neck Road?

MR. BUZZELL:
No.

MR. HEFTER:
And what is the net result after 29 years? For your \$300,000, what is your net result after 29 years? You guys are trying to help the Vanderbilt. Let's all try to help the Vanderbilt. I'm not allowed to ask that question?

MR. BUZZELL:
I think the more pertinent question would be what money is the Vanderbilt going to get out of this? If you want to ask that question, by all means –

MR. HEFTER:
The Vanderbilt, obviously, can't raid the corpus. If they raid the corpus, the property goes back to the family. That's my understanding.

MR. BUZZELL:
I'm not debating that issue. Way before the Vanderbilt put out an RFP -- we didn't come here on our own --

MR. BEATTIE:
Let me just interrupt. This is for technical questions to Suffolk Wireless.

MR. HEFTER:
I'm just asking questions to their attorney.

MR. BUZZELL:
If you want to look at the lease, make arrangements to go down and look at the lease.

MR. HEFTER:
That's fine. I'll do that. Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Are there any more technical questions for Suffolk Wireless?

MR. WALTERS:

Bill Walters from 3 Sherry Court, off of Idle Day Drive. I've lived there since 1975. This will definitely be a real change for the community, obviously. However, my question is about the radiation level. Where do you get your information about the radiation levels? I've seen many studies just the opposite of what you're talking about. As I said, there was an oncologist who was supposed to be here tonight. He will forward information just the opposite of what you're saying.

MR. BEATTIE:

Bill, you asked a question. Let them answer it.

MR. COLLINS:

The technical inputs for the radiation analysis comes from the client's carriers. I work for all the carriers, as well as several governments. I know what their parameters are and what the worse case parameters they can use are. There is also a standard publicly available formula for doing a calculation comparing the result to the FCC limit, which we did, and we were 100 times below the limit.

MR. BEATTIE:

Excuse me, but can we have some quiet in the back of the room, please? Our people recording are having a hard time hearing.

MR. COLLINS:

The description of the study, the parameters and the formula are all in the report. Anybody with a reasonable facility with mathematics can repeat the analysis and arrive at the same conclusion.

MR. WALTERS:

But so many other studies show just the opposite. So we're going to be the guinea pigs.

MR. BEATTIE:

Bill, can you please limit it to just questions?

MR. WALTERS:

He's not answering the question.

MR. COLLINS:

I answered your question. You didn't like the answer.

MR. WALTERS:

You're skirting around the issue.

MR. COLLINS:

I mentioned before that the worse case radiation effect around this facility with six carriers on it, fully loaded, would be 9/10 of one percent of the FCC's limit.

I also said that human beings create one quarter of one percent. Four human beings create a slightly greater radio frequency effect. I'll add to that, that when all go home tonight, we're going to go home into an environment where things are plugged in and leak radiofrequency energy. The average measured level in people's homes ranges between two and seven percent of that same FCC standard. In your home, you're walking around in about five percent of the FCC limit. If you leave your home, like under this facility, you reduce your exposure by about a factor of four. That's where I get my numbers.

MR. WALTERS:

I don't believe it.

MR. BEATTIE:

Is there anybody else who would like to ask a question?

MR. DOHERTY:

Michael Doherty, 10 Idle Day Drive. Sir, you said the public is misinformed, there's a misconception. The reality is the public has that impression. That is going to directly affect our property values. Who is going to compensate us for that? That's the issue. You can talk about emotions. You can talk about aesthetics. Get down to dollars and cents. You said it before. The public misunderstands. They are uninformed. The science is what it is. I'm not disputing the company sponsored studies that you're citing.

My point is it comes down to dollars and cents. You stated the perception – but there is a perception there. It will affect our property values.

MR. BEATTIE:

Michael, you're not asking questions. You're making a statement.

MR. DOHERTY:

If my property values declines by 5 to 10 percent, \$5,400, who is going to make me whole? That's my question.

MR. BEATTIE:

That's not a typical question to ask Suffolk Wireless.

MR. DOHERTY:

I believe that throughout the United States, there have been class action suits around cell phone towers. They do exist. There is precedent. Can you address that? Who's going to make me whole if I lose \$100,000 on my house?

MR. BUZZELL:

You're making a large presumption that you're losing \$100,000. I've done dozens upon dozens upon dozen on these hearings, including the ones at the Northport Jewish Center and the one down at Commack Fire Department. They all have real estate appraisers, and they all testified that there would be no impact on surrounding properties.

MR. BEATTIE:

I'm going to ask for a motion to adjourn from the Board.

MR. GUARISCHELLI:

Motion.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Second.

MR. BEATTIE:

Without objection, we're adjourned. **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Not Present: Ms. Oldrin Mones, Mr. Armstrong, Dr. Gittelman, Mr. Rodriguez & Mr. Rogers.)**

(Mr. Ron Beattie adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

RB/ap