

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2015**

Present: Sam McGinley, Tamara Schuster, Megan Tooker, Pat Long, Walt Schneider

Absent: Alan Uhler, Robert Lingenfelter,

Staff Present: Vana Dainty, Ralph Stewart

Guests: Paul Gilbert; Joanne Tosti-Vasey; James Dunne; Nancy O. Miller

Call to Order:

S. McGinley called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:

None.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None.

Declaration of Ex Parte Communication:

- Vana Dainty reported it is not a conflict for HARB members to read the information in the packet regarding the Crown Castle including an email from Section 106 from BHCA; a communication from PA Preservation through email; and the federal regulations showing HARB has the authority over this project.

Approval of Minutes: W. Schneider made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 12, 2015. T. Schuster seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as presented.

Project Review and Public Comments:

Project Review #1

Crown Castle

Represented by: Paul Gilbert

Description of Proposed Work:

HARB Discussion: Crown Castle is a communications network. They are a public utility in Pennsylvania that provides wireless telecommunication networks. They are trying to make an investment in that network in Bellefonte. To do that they would like to build three sites. They build smaller, scaled down, very focused wireless telecommunication facilities. They typically co-locate along other public utility plants in the area. Their concept is to have a very small lower impact facility that compliments wire telecommunication networks. The small cells are designed to work in conjunction with the larger networks. The need for this technology is nearly everybody has something that is connected to the wireless network and the demand for data is growing exponentially. The need for a reliable wireless network to serve those people and their demand on the network is essential. 70% of emergency calls are made from wireless devices. 60% of households don't have a land line any more. The traditional tower

infrastructure that everybody is familiar with provides a large coverage area but those antennas can't cover some areas. There are areas that are challenged by those types of service. Those areas are challenged by topography, buildings, or even trees and foliage. The signal can't go through leaves or buildings. They install very small antennas closer down to the specific areas that need the coverage or the capacity. Mr. Gilbert provided some photos of locations where they have the antennas.

There are three sites proposed in Bellefonte and all three of them are in the Historic District. One is on Spring Street on an existing wooden utility pole, which is shown on a picture. They are proposing a central location directly adjacent to the Courthouse on a black pole that incorporates an existing street light. The antenna needs to be up in the air. The antenna is 30' from the sidewalk and goes 15' above the historic lights. It was felt that the base is not very decorative. Walt suggested not messing with the light standard but make a stand-alone antenna that looks like a light standard but doesn't have a light on it. The biggest challenge for this in Bellefonte is the height of buildings. The targeted coverage area is the Diamond. To get the antenna above the buildings to cover that area is the reason they chose where they did. Robert Lingenfelter sent a comment and he wondered if there is a less visible location for these because he is concerned with the introduction of another street element. Mr. Gilbert reported they brought a team of people to explore the options of where these antennas could be located. They have some flexibility and want to work with HARB to build this communications network in Bellefonte. Vana pointed out that is a very picturesque area. They have a network in the French Quarter of New Orleans; there is one around the University of Pittsburgh. Walt suggested they explore the option of looking at more but shorter for the Diamond area to make them more of a reasonable historic scale. Tamara would like to see it as far away from the Diamond area as possible.

For the Bishop Street site it would be a taller pole. They would also replace the pole on Spring Street. They have not talked with the Undines about potentially building mounting on the site on Bishop Street. On Spring Street HARB requested a similar concept as around the Courthouse, which is bring it down in the scale, make it its own pole, and make it decorative.

HARB Recommendation: W. Schneider made a motion to table the project. M. Tooker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Project Review #2

Bellefonte Borough

Represented by: Ralph Stewart

Description of Proposed Work: Change voltage at the Corning Pump House

HARB Discussion: There are two projects that Ralph discussed. The first project is at the Corning Pump House. They are renovating the inside of the pump house, which was built in the late 1960's. While doing the renovations inside the pump house that was built to serve Corning Glass where they pumped approximately 2 million gallons of water a day for forty years. The power going into the building is high voltage. It is a 2300 volt system. They would like to reduce the voltage down to 480, which is the same as all the other pump houses. The project has been put out to bid and the bids will be opened soon. They are going to variable speed drives on the inside. The three pole mounted transformers will go away and there will be a concrete pad 8' x 8' on the ground and on top of that will be a transformer approximately 8' x 8' and 4' high. This will be placed by West Penn Power. There will be a trailer with a generator on it at the site as needed. It will be kept at Musser Lane.

The only other change is adjacent to the left of the garage door will be a transfer switch that looks like a giant (?). Walt suggested it be recessed into the building.

Through an email Robert suggested putting shrubs around the transformer.

HARB Recommendation: W. Schneider made a motion to approve based on the comments. M. Tooker seconded the motion. HARB members approved the motion for recommendation to Borough Council at their meeting of June 1, 2015.

Project Review #3

PennDOT

Represented by: Ralph Stewart

Description of Proposed Work: Upgrade Traffic Signals

HARB Discussion: This involves traffic lights. A number of years ago the 150 Water Street corridor was considered a congested corridor by PennDOT. It has been studied for a number of years. PennDOT feels it is in the best interest to upgrade the traffic lights at Lamb and Water; Water and High; and High and Spring. The reason is because of gridlock during the morning rush hour. The two lights on Water and High and High and Spring are on the same sequence and over time they drift out of sequence. There is modern technology to keep that from happening. They would talk to each other and would also be able to interpret the amount of traffic going through to speed up or slow down the sequence.

With the upgrade of the lights they want to go from an 8" lens to a 12" lens. The EMS and other services use devices that turn lights green when necessary and they would like to incorporate that technology at least on Water Street so emergency vehicles can get through those intersections.

The changes are to go from partly cables and partly poles to a full mast-arm instead of the cables. It can be hung on that mast-arm where the cable moves up and down. It is not a good idea to install the modern technology on cables. At High and Spring they would go to four poles. That would include any pedestrian buttons for crosswalks. It would be painted black poles. This is being paid for through PennDOT. Ralph will talk to them and see if a decorative pole could be used, but the Borough would have to pay the additional cost.

An email from Robert says at least they will be consistent in type and would reduce the visual clutter at the intersections. The PennDOT pole in Lemont is more historic looking.

HARB Recommendation: W. Schneider made a motion table the project until more information is provided. M. Tooker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Administrative Approval:

- None.

Information/Discussion Items:

- Ms. Dainty will not be at the June 9, 2015 HARB meeting. Mr. Stewart will conduct the meeting if there are projects to review. If there are no projects the meeting will be cancelled.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- None.

Adjournment:

- With no further business to come before HARB W. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the May 26, 2015 meeting. M. Tooker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.