

Cape Cod Commission
3225 Main Street Rte. 6A
Barnstable, MA 02630

September 5, 2018

Attn: Mr. Jonathan Idman, Chief Regulatory Officer

Dear Mr. Idman:

The intent of this letter is to express the hopes of many of the residents of New Seabury with regard to the erection of a cell tower on Red Brook Road. As you know, there is virtually no reception in several areas, poor to fair reception in some, and intermittent reception in most at this time.

The growth in the Town of Mashpee, not only residentially but in businesses as well, has been wonderful for the town but catastrophic for its visitors and its residents insofar as cellular service. In the summer months, we have approximately 30,000 residents. We are a diverse group: there are those who no longer have a landline; those who use their mobile phone to work from home; and, of course, the majority of us who use the phone as a mode of communicating with friends and family. However, the major concerns that arise are with safety issues. Receiving important phone calls that lose connection or making a call to emergency services is an ongoing problem. Dropping calls from clients, patients, or even family members with important news is commonplace. Those whose work depends on strong wifi connection know all too well the frustration when it is unavailable or intermittent.

Many of us could offer specific examples of how our mobile devices have failed us when needed most. However, the recent and tragic example of Truro beachgoers who tried in vain to contact emergency services but were unable due to poor mobile service demonstrates the need for a cell tower with proximity and signal strength. Closer to home, a woman fainted on the New Seabury beach last week. The bartender and others who saw this immediately tried to call 911 from their cell phones. Not one got connected. In another incident in the prior week, a swimmer was struggling and once again there was no cell service. In the time it took to go to a landline, a disaster could easily have occurred.

We urge you to move this important hearing forward by allowing the Town of Mashpee to erect a cell tower on Red Brook Road.

Yours truly,

Judith and Howard Kahalas
Leland Muldowney
Tony Shaker
Ellen and Sherman Epro