

August 31, 2018

Cape Cod Commission
P.O. Box 226
3225 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Commissioners,


My name is Nicole Corbett and I am writing to express my support for the proposed cell tower on Red Brook Road in Mashpee. I have been travelling to and staying at my grandparents' cottage at 58 Monahansett Road in the Popponesset area of Mashpee since I was born. Over the past decade, the lack of cell service has become a problem from a functionality and, more importantly, a safety standpoint. While staying in Popponesset, especially during the summer months when it is crowded and many are using their phones, it is nearly impossible to even make a basic call or send a text message unless you are able to find one of very few spots where you have one bar of service. Service is also very poor during the winter and spring, which made working in the area during an internship a few years ago challenging, especially when I needed to connect with school. During holidays like the Fourth of July, cell service has become essentially nonexistent; this year for example, it took 45 minutes for a simple text messages to my friend to finally send. Out of all the summers I have stayed the area, I can say without a doubt that this year has been the worst in regards to cell service and most phone calls and checks of email and text messages needed to be done while visiting Mashpee Commons.

While much of what I described can be seen as a minor inconveniences that landlines and internet service could alleviate (my grandmother does not have internet at her cottage), the risk to public safety due to the lack of cell service became very clear to me on August 26th. I was swimming at Popponesset Beach alone when a large Atlantic Sea Nettle jellyfish wrapped around my entire arm and I was stung multiple times. I had been stung by jellyfish before at Popponesset but not to the severity I was on this day. With no lifeguards or safety personnel on duty at that beach, I left the water to call my family for help on my phone only to find that I had no service. I ended up walking a quarter of a mile back to the top of Monahansett Road before I had enough of a signal to call for help. By this time, I was vomiting and going into anaphylactic shock. The signal held on long enough for me to call 911 and an ambulance to arrive; regardless, I was panicked during this entire process that the call would drop and I would be unable to move to find a signal again.

While my medical situation had a fortunate turnout, it is very clear that during a medical emergency, the lack of cell service in this area is a serious problem. This is dangerous for people who become seriously ill or hurt like myself and for the many elderly in the area. My 91-year-old grandmother, for example, has a Jitterbug phone that allows her to press a button to call for help in the event she needs immediate medical attention or assistance. That phone rarely has service in and around her home. If she were injured due to a fall, she would likely be unable to call for help.

I would like to once again voice my support for this proposed cell tower and thank you for taking the time to read my opinion on the matter. I am unable to attend the meeting on September 5th but appreciate you taking the time to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely,



Nicole Christina Corbett