

PLANNING & ZONING REVIEW NOTES

IX. A.

SUBJECT: Request by David Amory, Chase Real Estate Services, on behalf of **Sprint Nextel** to locate a communication tower within Chatham County for the 2007 tower plan as follows: 190 FT. monopole on NC 42 in Corinth Area #3

ATTACHMENTS: *Included in June 18, 2007 public hearing packet – please notify the Planning Department if additional copies are needed.*

1. Search ring maps and letter of requests
2. Email correspondence from Jeff Bandini
3. Email correspondence from David LeGrys

The following can be viewed on the Planning Department webpage at www.co.chatham.nc.us under Planning, Rezoning & Subdivision Cases, 2007:

4. Public hearing sign up sheet
5. **Revised** RF coverage map

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND:

A public hearing was held on June 18, 2007. The applicant was the only person who spoke on the issue. Due to time constraints, the Planning Board removed this item from the July 10, 2007 agenda and rescheduled for the July 31, 2007 special meeting. The Board tabled the request to receive clarifying information on the need for this tower due to Crown Castle had also submitted a request for a tower in a separate location on NC Hwy 42. The revised RF coverage map can be viewed on the webpage.

Each year the county receives requests from cellular phone companies or other companies, who construct towers, about their plans for expansion of service within Chatham County. This year, Chase Real Estate Services, on behalf of the provider Sprint Nextel, requests a search ring approval for one possible tower location.

DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS:

The search ring location for the proposed tower is located on the south side of NC Hwy 42 in Corinth. This site will be just north of the proposed tower location proposed by Crown Castle. A request was made of Chase Real Estate Services and Crown Castle to provide an RF map showing the “fill in”, not overlapping, of the two locations to ensure two (2) towers could be used and a collocation onto one or the other is not the better option. The information has been requested in the form of an “RF” map detailing the service extension areas to ensure they do not overlap and are “filling in the gap” as desired by the ordinance. Mr. Dave LeGrys reviewed the revised maps and it is in his opinion both towers are needed. The “overlap” is minimal but needed to ensure there are no drop areas between the towers.

Re: Sprint Nextel

DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS – con't

The Chatham County Telecommunications Ordinance states in Article I Section 1-3.9 that new towers are to be built at the maximum heights allowed in each specific area to encourage the use of collocation options and to maximize the use of each tower. The height of this proposed tower is 190 feet; nine (9) feet below the maximum allowed. Therefore, Mr. LeGrys and the Planning staff recommend requiring the height to be 199 feet as stated in Article III Section 3-2.1 under Area #3 specifically. It states “to achieve the goal of maximal collocation, towers shall be built at 199 feet in Area #3 unless otherwise specifically approved below 199 feet by the Board of Commissioners. Also as stated in the ordinance, Article IV, Section 4-1.5, lighting of the tower is prohibited.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Planning Department recommendation that the Chase Real Estate Services search ring request for one (1) additional tower location be approved as a 199 foot tower and within the area requested.