

draft
Plainfield Zoning Board
Meeting Monday July 13th 2026
Meriden Town Hall

Zoning Board

Members Present:

Richard Colburn Chair
Mike Button

Matthew Decker
Peter Martin

Others Present:

Stephen Halleran

John Austin

Chris Swiniarski

Phil Greene

Rob Healy

Brain Hampton

Sofia Langlois-Valley News Z

Suzanne Spencer -Z

Elof Erkson

Gudrun Erikson

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. The June 22nd minutes were approved as amended.

Continuation of Case 26-01 Greene Cell Tower, Old Stage Coach Road: The meeting focused on the variance request for a proposed cell tower in Plainfield. As requested by the Zoning Board, the applicant's attorney Chris Swiniarski presented additional information on alternative sites (most across the town line in Lebanon, NH), explaining that these sites are not viable due to steep slopes, wetlands, or redundancy in coverage. The board also, as a means of reducing the visual impact, discussed reducing the tower's height from 130 feet to 120 feet to accommodate three carriers instead of four, and debated whether the applicant could waive their right to a future 10% height increase. Public comments raised continued concerns about the visual impact, access road construction, and the potential for future height increases. The board members expressed mixed opinions on whether the variance criteria were met, considering both local zoning requirements and federal telecommunications law. On a straw vote a majority of the members were in favor of granting the necessary approval of the tower, at 120', asking that the applicant abide by its representative that increased tower height would not be brought forward unless an additional tenant wanted access to the site. The applicant pointed out that increasing the tower height after the initial construction is very expensive. Town Administrator Halleran noted that as consolidation most towers in town right now have unused carrier slots.

Given the complexity of the case as it pertains to Federal law, member Matt Decker, who is also a land use attorney volunteered to draft a written decision for board review at the next meeting which is Monday August 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Stephen Halleran

Richard Colburn, Chair