



Plymouth

Congregational Church

Est. 1899 Belmont, MA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
582 PLEASANT STREET
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02478

The Rev. Joe Zarro, Minister

Church Office: 617-484-5257

Website: www.plymouthchurch.net

E-mail: office@plymouthchurch.net

9 May 2016

To the Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational Church,

On Sunday, April 24, Plymouth Church, in a specially called congregational meeting, voted unanimously to adopt the following motion:

The congregation of Plymouth Congregational Church of Belmont hereby votes that the Trustees, in conjunction with the previously appointed Ad Hoc Cell Phone Committee, are authorized to amend or cancel the lease of space contract with Verizon based upon their knowledge and wisdom concerning what is in the best interest of the Plymouth Congregational Church, without further action or vote by the congregation.

This was done to allow the Trustees to deal expeditiously with the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding Verizon's proposed installation of a cell antenna in the church steeple. Although we cannot foresee all of these changing circumstances, below, in roughly chronological order, are what has occurred and what we expect to occur in the upcoming weeks.

April 22, 2016: Notice of Belmont Planning Board Public Hearing

The church along with its abutters and neighbors received notice via certified mail from the Belmont Planning Board of a public hearing on Tuesday, May 3, to consider Verizon's revised application, filed March 9, for installation of a cell antenna in the church steeple. The revised application retained the steeple's original wooden louvers, eliminated external air conditioning units and located the required GPS beacon out of sight behind the steeple balustrade.

April 22, 2016: Citizen Petition Submitted

Belmont Board of Registrars received a Citizen Petition signed by 242 Belmont residents asking that a Special Town Meeting be called to consider a change in town by-laws that would require that all applications for wireless telecommunications facilities, interior and exterior, be considered by the Belmont Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). At present only exterior wireless telecommunications facilities, are reviewed by the ZBA.

April 24, 2016: Plymouth Church Congregational Meeting

Plymouth Church adopted the motion on Trustee actions in the Verizon cell antenna project.

April 25, 2016: Board of Registrars certifies signatures on Citizen Petition

Board of Registrars certified signatures on the Citizen Petition on the town by-law change and the petition was received by the Selectmen.

May 2, 2016: Belmont Selectmen's Meeting

Selectmen set a special Town Meeting on Monday, June 6, to consider the Citizen Petition. The Selectmen also referred the petition to Town Planning Board for comment.

May 3, 2016: Town Planning Board Meeting

The Planning Board held a public hearing on Verizon's revised application (Case No. PB 16-06). After presentations by members of the church (Rev. Joe Zarro, Joe Greene, Chet Messer, Karen Donelan) and by representatives of neighbors, abutters and others opposed to the installation, the board voted approve Verizon's application. The revised application must still be reviewed by the Historical District Commission.

May 10, 2016: Belmont Historical District Commission Meeting

Belmont Historical District Commission will meet to consider whether any part of Verizon's revised application falls under its jurisdiction.

May 17, 2016: Town Planning Board Meeting

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing to receive comment on the town by-law change proposed by the Citizen Petition submitted on April 22.

May 23, 2016; League of Women Voters Annual Town Meeting Warrant Briefing

Belmont League of Women Voters will host at the Beech Street Center (266 Beech) from 7:30 to 10:00 pm a public briefing on warrants before the June 6 Town Meeting. This will include the Citizen's Petition for a by-law change to be considered at the Special Town meeting on the same day.

June 6, 2016: Town Meeting

Regular Town Meeting followed by a Special Town Meeting to consider the Citizen's Petition received by Selectmen on April 25. This petition will be the only item of business on the agenda for the Special Town Meeting.

In addition there has been all along much taking place behind the scenes that does not fit into a neat chronological order, such as the ongoing discussions with Verizon and outside consultants and personal outreach to neighbors. As this process unfolds, please remember in your prayers those church members leading the cell antenna project, but also especially our neighbors and abutters who oppose it.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Rev. Joe Zarro, Chet Messer, or one of the members of Cell Antenna Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph A. Greene, Moderator

Chet Messer, Chair, Board of Trustees

Karen Donelan, Ron Haska, Myron Kassaraba, Holly Stratford, Cell Antenna Committee Members