

TOWN OF GROTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, 24 August 2016 – 7:30 PM
Groton Town Hall Court Room – 101 Conger Boulevard – Groton, NY

Board Members

Ted Schiele, Chairman
Paul Fouts
Patricia Gaines
Carolann Darling
Daniel Cerretani

(*Absent)

Others Present

Sheldon Clark, Town Councilman
Joan Fitch, Board Secretary

Applicants & Public in Attendance

Meredithe Mathias for Pyramid Network Services, LLD, Appellant; Town Councilman Randy Jackson; Deputy Town Clerk Robin Cargian.

PUBLIC HEARING

Pyramid Network Services, LLC, Applicant/Kathy Wolf & Peter Clark, Reputed Owners – 194 Old Peruville Road – TM #36.-1-63.2 – Proposed Weather Station

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Ted Schiele who read aloud the Legal Notice as duly published in *The Groton Independent* on 17 August 2016. Proof of Publication has been placed on file for the record.

Chairman Schiele recognized the appellant's representative, Meredith Mathias, who was seeking a use variance to erect a 33 ft. weather station, including weather monitoring equipment, at this location. The variance is needed as this type of project is not in the Town of Groton's Land Use table and, therefore, is not allowed according to Section 302. The weather station would be used to relay weather data to Albany, NY, as part of a weather gathering system which is also used for Federal purposes.

Those ZBA members present introduced themselves.

Chairman Schiele then read into the record the 20 July 2016 letter to Ms. Mathias from Town Code Enforcement Officer W. Rick Fritz, advising her of the denial and right to appeal. A copy of this letter has been placed on file for the record. Chairman Schiele also advised the appellant that this Board has not yet heard back from the adjoining Town of Dryden, nor the Tompkins County Department of Planning, so there will be no determination made at this meeting.

Chairman Schiele then recognized Ms. Mathias who explained in detail what was being proposed on the subject parcel. This weather station would be the only one in Tompkins County, but they do have several in the surrounding areas. It is not a commercial tower where the landowner has any financial benefit; they will receive the weather information. The tower/equipment is solar powered. It's single use and nothing else will be placed on the tower which can be erected within 5 to 7 days, and has a four-foot base. There will be a 3±-foot lightning rod on the top of the fully fenced in tower.

Technicians will visit the tower for maintenance about three to five times per year. The proposed location was selected because of its openness, it's away from buildings, and the willingness of the landowner. Chairman Schiele asked Ms. Mathias if there was something in writing that explains why this particular location is so important and what makes the request unique. She offered to provide this to the Board.

