

TOWN OF GROTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, 28 September 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
Don Scheffler, Town Supervisor

Applicants & Public in Attendance

Meredithe Mathias for Pyramid Network Services, LLD, Appellant; Town Councilman Sheldon Clark; Lee Shurtleff (did not sign Attendance Sheet).

OLD BUSINESS

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

(It is noted for the record that the Public Hearing on this matter was held and closed on 24 August 2016, with discussion/decision to be conducted at this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Reference is made to those August Minutes for further details.)

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.

At the 24 August 2016 public hearing/meeting the ZBA requested that the applicant provide a listing of some of the other locations where such a facility had been installed, an additional narrative explaining how the subject site was selected, and whether or not this installation was critical to the function of the entire system. All of this information had been supplied by Ms. Mathias, copies of which have been placed on file for the record.

The Board reviewed the submitted materials, and Ms. Mathias satisfactorily answered all of their questions, including how data is transmitted, how system works, what it's classified/not classified, etc. Chairman Schiele read aloud the definition of accessory use which would require a Site Plan Review by the Town's Planning Board; this might mean an interpretation instead of a variance. Member Carolann Darling thought it would be a telecommunications facility. Chair Schiele sees it as a non-commercial transmitting and receiving antenna; an FCC license would be required for that type of facility. Member Dan Cerretani felt it was more for providing research data, and not as an accessory to the purpose of the property. Member Pat Gaines noted that there was no section on research.

After a lengthy discussion, **a motion was made by Member Paul Fouts that the Town of Groton Zoning Board of Appeals considers the proposed Weather Station to be a research, testing, or development enterprise. The motion was seconded by Member Gaines, with the vote recorded as follows:**

Ayes:	Chairman Schiele	Nays:	None
	Member Fouts		
	Member Cerretani		
	Member Darling		
	Member Gaines		

Motion carried.

This becomes Action #19 of 2016.

