

Correspondence received by the
Concord Select Board
Week Ending – July 8, 2024

1. Louise Berliner – 179 Independence Road
2. Liza Carter – 34 Hubbard Street
3. Susan Ticknor – 143 Everett Street
4. Liz Newell – 315 Plainfield Road
5. Julia Miner – 399 Lowell Road
6. Cynthia Katz – 20 Conant Street
7. Craig Elliott – Umbrella Center, Studio 312
8. Ilse Plume – Umbrell Studio 301-B
9. William Lehr – 94 Hubbard Street

To the Town Manager and Select Board:

I was surprised to hear that the town has circled back to putting a cell tower at the Umbrella Center for the Arts, especially after so much community opposition. I do understand that you feel the pressing need to answer the requests for increased cell phone coverage in town. While the Verizon negotiations with Trinitarian might ultimately happen, it is also not an ideal location with regards to our bylaws. Both the Umbrella and the church are located in residential areas and close to schools and educational programs for children, populations our bylaws were designed to protect. I understand you want to court other carriers for the Umbrella, but it seems unfair to the townspeople who live in that area to carry a double burden, if and when there is both a Verizon tower in one building, and some other carrier in another.

Over and over again, the Keyes Road location has been put forth as an acceptable alternative. It is a location that more appropriately fits the requirements of the current bylaw, with impacting fewer residents and homeowners. In addition, it does not require that the town undermine its own bylaws by offering a waiver for a densely-populated area. Once you show yourself willing to do that, the carriers might get a bit more aggressive. The bylaws give the town the power it needs to control what happens here, and not allow the industry to push its buildout agenda. That's one of the things that makes this town so great.

Also, I understand that the closing of MCI Concord has opened up the possibility of an eventual move of town offices from that location at Keyes Rd, anyway, so why not issue a temporary lease and see how it goes? It would be a win-win situation— lower impact on surrounding people, and shorter investment in case it turns out the offices need to stay. And yes, I do know that the town also has plans for possibly building housing there, but again, that won't happen within the next few years, anyway.

The Umbrella Center for the Arts has become a destination for many. The building is bustling these days with kids enrolled in the many educational arts programs, adults attending classes of painting, ceramics and more, with over 50 working artists and a gallery that continues to put forth state-of-the-art shows, not to mention the incredible theater productions that have brought more and more visitors to Concord. Not only is the building filled with activity, it is in close proximity to the Concord Library, Concord Academy, and residential homes. Our bylaws were designed to protect the people of Concord, especially the vulnerable, and they were not designed frivolously. Please consider looking elsewhere and slowing down the RFP process.

Thank you for your time and energy.

Best,

Louise Berliner
179 Independence Rd

To the Town Manager and Select Board:

The town passed a cell tower siting bylaw specifically to protect nearby residents and children. It is an important bylaw that should be upheld. Once the town sets a precedent of ignoring their own bylaws, all the cell phone companies will use that precedent to push their own desires at the expense of the town. The town of Concord needs to hold onto the power they do have around the location of cell towers!

There is lots of data, of which I'm sure you are aware, concerning the health impacts of cell towers on human health. Concord, while in desperate need for better cell service, has identified two locations that would address the coverage AND protect the health of its citizens – the land fill and Keyes Road. That is where the towers should go.

It is immoral to place the health of a vulnerable subset of Concord's residents at risk for any reason – particularly when there are options.

I was horrified to learn that the TriCon Church and the Umbrella are once again under consideration for cell towers. They are both in the middle of residential areas and in close proximity to schools/educational programs for children. Both things are specifically prohibited by our bylaws.

As someone who lives across the street from the TriCon Church, and who has a studio at the Umbrella, and is sensitive to EMFs, I am distraught. I have been healthier since the Sprint equipment shut down. I can't fathom what it would be like to have towers both where I live and where I work. I will likely have to leave my home of 33 years and move elsewhere.

Please work to protect the vulnerable population in town and select a (much needed) site(s) for cell towers that:

- Respects our bylaws
- Protects our most vulnerable citizens (children and those with existing medical issues)
- Acknowledges that while there is much to still learn about exposure to close cell tower emissions, there is enough hard data to be proactive in protecting our citizen.
- Learn from the terrible lessons of DDT, asbestos, lead, and tobacco. For decades researchers sounding the alarm concerning exposures to the above products were dismissed and ignored. Let's be smarter this time and pay attention before generations of people are harmed.

Please send out RFPs for the land fill and Keyes Road and NOT the two options in the middle of residential areas filled with schools and educational programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liza F. Carter
34 Hubbard St
Liza F. Carter
Moving with the Seasons
Portrait of a Mongolian Family

Subject: Antenna at Umbrella Art Center

[You don't often get email from sgticknor@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Warning: This email was sent from outside the Town and it has the same display name as someone inside our organization. This is probably a phishing mail. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are certain that this email is safe.

As an artist at the Umbrella , I would like to also register my big concern about a cell tower antenna being placed in the cupola of the Umbrella. There are so many artists , staff, theater goers, children and adults attending classes , Art Camp for children that the Umbrella is busy seven days a week . It would be better to find a less busy site in town that especially isn't working with so many children and adults. I wanted to add my name to the others that have expressed these same concerns about placement at the Umbrella. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Ticknor

143 Everett St.

Sent from my iPhone

To the Town Manager and Select Board:

I write to express my concern about an RFP being generated for a cell phone tower to be placed at the Umbrella or the TriCon church. While I understand the need for improved cell phone coverage in town, the waiving of a bylaw that protects Concord citizens from just such an eventuality could set a dangerous precedent, signaling to wireless companies that the bylaw is flexible.

As an artist at the Umbrella, I am concerned both for my personal exposure and that of the many children who frequent the building, often for hours (summer camp is now in session). I was very grateful and relieved when the bylaw was passed to protect Concord citizens from EMF radiation, particularly since scientific research is finding it to be more, not less dangerous for developing brains.

I urge the Select Board and Town Manager to explore alternate sites for a cell tower away from population density, as described in the current bylaw. Sites such as the landfill, Keyes Road, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and other potential locations could be considered.

Many citizens of Concord worked hard to pass the bylaw. I believe the town should make every effort to abide by it. If a waiver is to be pursued, this matter should be brought to Town Meeting for consideration by all Concord residents (many of whom are currently away) before an RFP is issued for these sites.

Sincerely,

Liz Newell
315 Plainfield Road

Dear Town Manager and Select Board:

When our wifi is down, I drive to the parking lot across route 2 from Emerson Hospital to make sure I have ATT reception for a call. People on the other end can't believe we are so far out in the wilderness here in Concord! Believe me, I am all for a new cell tower or two.

Are the TriCon Church and the Umbrella once again under consideration for cell towers? They are both in the middle of residential areas and in close proximity to educational programs for children. This is specifically prohibited by Concord's bylaws.

The town passed a cell tower siting bylaw specifically to protect nearby residents and children. It is an important bylaw that should be upheld. Once the town sets a precedent of ignoring their own bylaws, any cell phone company can use that precedent to push their own desires at the expense of the town. The town of Concord needs to hold onto the power it has around the location of cell towers.

There is data, of which I'm sure you are aware, concerning the health impacts of cell towers on human health. We can also learn from the terrible lessons of DDT, asbestos, lead, and tobacco. For decades researchers who sounded the alarm concerning exposures to the above products were dismissed and ignored. Let's be smarter this time and pay attention before generations of people are harmed.

Concord has identified two locations that would address the coverage AND protect the health of its citizens – the landfill and Keyes Road. This is where the towers should go. It would be immoral to place the health of a vulnerable subset of Concord's residents at risk for any reason – particularly when there are options.

As an artist with an Umbrella studio that I use at least 20 hours a week, I'm mainly concerned for the neighbors and for the Umbrella staff and children who use the arts center for eight hours a day, five days a week. As an architect specializing in historic preservation and renovation, I'm distraught over the idea that a significant historic structure in the Town Center could be violated by a cell tower.

Please work to protect the vulnerable population in town and select sites for cell towers that:

- Respect our bylaws
- Protect our most vulnerable citizens (children and those with existing medical issues)
- Acknowledge that while there is much to still learn about exposure to close cell tower emissions, there is enough hard data to be proactive in protecting our citizens.
- Respect the architecture of our famous historic center.

Please send out RFPs for the landfill and Keyes Road, not the two options in the middle of residential areas filled with schools and educational programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julia Miner AIA NCARB
East Side Studio Architects
Where Art Meets Architecture

399 Lowell Road, Concord, MA 01742

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Dear Town Manager, Select Board, and other town officials,

I understand you are considering an RFP to site cell towers in residential areas, specifically at the Tri-Con Church and the Umbrella Art Center. I thought we had zoning by-laws that would be respected by our town officials, both elected and paid, after they were created by our citizens at Town Meeting. If you want to bypass our zoning by-laws, I believe you should take it back to a town meeting for discussion and vote.

We have these bylaws to prohibit cell towers in residential areas to protect our fellow citizens, adults and children. For the Select Board and Town Manager and her office to override the will of the people, as stated at Town Meeting is nothing less than hypocrisy.

We have options. Let's try Keyes Road, the town compost area on Route 126 and Sleepy Hollow Cemetary. Don't use put cell towers in residential areas.

If you want to go back to town meeting to amend our by-laws, that would be in keeping with how Concord does business. Otherwise, it seems undemocratic to act against our by-laws.

Repectfully,
Cynthia Katz
20 Conant Street
West Concord

www.cynthia-katz.com
The Umbrella Art Center
Studio 307
40 Stow Street
Concord, MA 01742
978-505-8169

Hello All-

I'm voicing my concern about the proposed cell tower equipment to be possibly located in the cupola of the Umbrella Arts building. I have an art studio on the third floor and the cupola is directly over my head, about 15 feet away vertically. I'm concerned about possible health effects on me and the 22 other artists on the floor, not to mention the other artists on the 2 floors below us. I'm not convinced by the profit-motive corporation that wants to install it right over my head that there will be no adverse effects. I need the assurance of an impartial qualified expert that it is completely safe to install it.

To me the King's Road DPW or the yardwaste site on route 126 would be much more suitable, as people come and go there briefly at specific hours. The Umbrella is open to the public and we artists from 7 am to 9 pm. In addition, there are many children's programs that are held at the Umbrella, inside and out. I'm in my studio 6 days a week and would be concerned if the equipment was installed and operating.

Thank you for your service to the Town. I agree that we need better cell service. Please count my opinion when considering approving the location for this project.

Thank You,

Craig Elliott
The Umbrella Arts Center
Studio 312

From: Ilse Plume <plumedesign@yahoo.com>

Subject: PLEASE! NO 🌂 CELL TOWER!

Dear Committee Members,

How can it be that a building with 60 + studio artists and staff, and children and adults in classes is in danger of the cell tower installation on top, yet again?

As an artist at the Umbrella, I can't even comprehend how this issue keeps on coming back. (Neither this location, nor that of the church is acceptable for this, in my opinion.)

Why is it that the other locations (which don't impact the lives of people who would be directly below it) are not strong contenders for this?

PLEASE! Let's put this cell tower some-where else; in a place that won't harm us.
Thanks for your consideration. Ilse Plume, Umbrella Artist, Studio 301-B.

Sent from my iPhone

I understand you are considering the possibility of siting a cell tower on the Emerson Umbrella in the heart of a residential area.

As an abutter to the Umbrella who was part of a multi-year effort to get remediation for numerous problems associated with noise, excess light pollution, and other issues associated with the renovation and expansion of the Umbrella, I am strongly opposed to the siting of a new cell tower on the Umbrella.

There are other sites that have already been approved for towers and other solutions for expanding cellular coverage in Concord, including at Keyes Road and the landfill. After numerous years, the problems between the Umbrella and its adjacent neighbors have been significantly addressed and the relationship with the neighbors has made significant progress to returning to the pre-renovation state of harmonious co-existence. While problems still remain, the neighbors accept that the Umbrella has made significant efforts to address the problems with excess light pollution and noise. The siting of a cell tower on the Umbrella would be a significant step in the wrong direction.

The health effects of cell towers are not well understood because the research has largely not been done for reasons that should surprise no one.

Siting one in the center of a residential neighborhood and when better locations are available would be grossly irresponsible. For that matter, it would also be grossly irresponsible to site a tower on the TriCon Church, which I understand is also under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

William Lehr

94 Hubbard Street, Concord, MA 021742