

Tower Proposal Packs BR Council Chamber

Written by Steve Frank

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An item not on the agenda of the Blowing Rock Town Council caused the seats in the meeting room to stay filled throughout the meeting Tuesday night, waiting to express concerns over a proposal for a communications tower in the Green Hill Circle area. Green Hill area resident and attorney Chelsea Garrett thanked the town for notifying residents of even the thought of locating the 100-foot tower in the area, but brought up a number of points that would cause that site to be disqualified, “In addition to being visible obviously from the Parkway, all the folks entering our town from going south on the Parkway, the town code states that cell towers are not permitted in R-15 zoning district. I believe that the property at the location is currently zoned R-15.” Garrett presented 208 names from a petition circulating in the area against the Green Hill location, then downtown Blowing Rock resident Leigh Dunston expressed his thoughts, saying “Can we find an alternative that makes financial sense that meets our needs before we start to put a cloud—as commissioner Phillips has said—on homes of all these people in Green Hill.” Town manager Scott Fogleman told the board the earliest any serious movement would come on the location would be early summer.