

Proposed Cell Tower Project - Frequently Asked Questions

- Why does Kennebunk want a cell tower?

- Safety. The top location on the tower will go to radio equipment for the Fire and Police departments that will improve and add resiliency to their emergency response capabilities.
- Service. Residents and visitors have regularly struggled with having reliable wireless service near Downtown. The tower is expected to co-locate up to four commercial carriers.
- Savings. The land lease of Town property will bring in revenues that will lessen the tax burden for residents and businesses. Public safety will improve their communications at minimal cost.

- When did this start? How long has this been an issue for the Downtown?

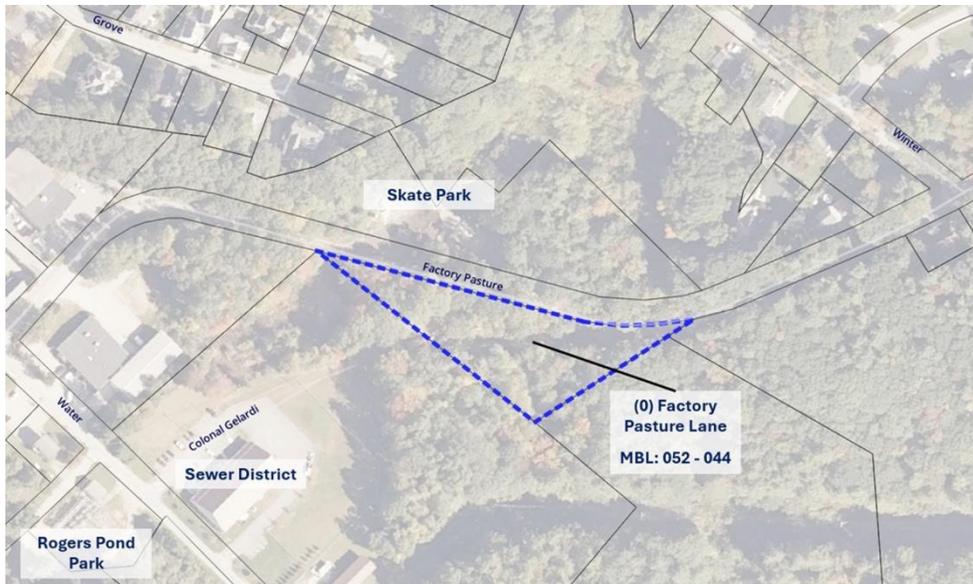
- The need for improved wireless communications Downtown is recognized in the 2009 *Economic Development Plan* (“Crane Report”).
- In 2022 the Economic Development Committee’s subcommittee on Connectivity produced the *Proposed Wireless Communications Master Plan*.
- The findings of that Master Plan have been a work item of the EDC and the recently hired Director of Economic Vitality, and the issue was addressed in a presentation to the Select Board on July 16, 2024.
- The Town released a Request For Proposals in the fall of 2024 and at the Select Board meeting on January 28, 2025, has selected *Wireless Edge Towers* as its preferred proposal (“...contingent on a satisfactory public process and the ability to negotiate a mutually agreeable land lease with the Town”).

- “Public Process”?! How come I’m just hearing about this now?

- The above planning work and discussion at Select Board meetings was done in order to find a partner that could deliver a feasible telecommunications facility.
- The neighborhood meeting on February 12, 2025 will be a formal introduction of *Wireless Edge Towers* and their approach to making this project successful.
 - A major subject of the neighborhood meeting will also be the roadmap for future approvals and permitting steps, the role of the Town and explaining the numerous other opportunities for the public to be involved going forward.

- Where is the site?

- The site is a parcel owned by the Town of Kennebunk on Factory Pasture Way (Map & Lot 052-044)
- Project Site:



- **How was the location of the proposed tower determined?**
 - Since improvements to public safety communications equipment is a key priority, locating the facility on Town property (providing site control and positioning on top of the tower) was strongly preferred compared to other alternatives.
 - The Town owns nearly 100 parcels of land, but only a handful have characteristics making them worth consideration for this project.
 - These characteristics can be summarized as:
 - Site viability, enough lot area, access and utilities for a tower and maintenance building
 - Market viability, location that covers commercial carrier customer service areas
 - Public Safety, site control ensures top position
 - Land Use, consideration for abutters, zoning and permitting

- **What is it? How tall and what kind of tower structure is it?**
 - The designs for this project are still preliminary.
 - Wireless Edge Towers anticipates the tower will be an approximately 170 foot tall monopole structure.
 - The site will also include accessory support buildings to house telecom and public safety equipment, redundancy systems. Road access, fencing, utility connections and screening are other site features.

- **What else is involved here?**
 - The main objective of the neighborhood meeting on the 12th is for the Select Board and Town staff to hear comments, questions or concerns from people in Town about the project.
 - If Wireless Edge Tower's approach to the project is acceptable then there are two components they will move forward with related to the Town:
 - They will begin negotiating a land lease with the Town through the Town Manager.
 - They will begin their predevelopment activities which will include regulatory requirements at the Federal, State and Local levels.

- **Who regulates cell towers?**
 - Cell towers are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
 - There are additional federal requirements (NEPA)
 - There are State-level requirements (DEP)
 - There are local permitting requirements related to zoning and regular ordinances

- **Are cell towers safe?**
 - As is the case for most issues related to health and risk, answering this question is complicated. When it comes to the effects of RF (radio frequency) exposure, the answer is basically, "Yes", "typically thousands of times below safety limits".
 - These are key resources from Federal (etc) agencies that evaluate telecommunications facilities.
 - [FCC](#)
 - [ACS](#)
 - [FDA](#)
 - [NCI](#)
 - [WHO](#)

- **Where can I find additional information?**
 - The Town's project site can be found here:
 - <https://www.kennebunkmaine.us/1211/Proposed-Cell-Tower-Project>
 - Hard copies of any information can be made by visiting Town Hall