

**TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN**

**P.O. Box 400**

**North Haven, Maine 04853**

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May 12, 2022

**Re: Possible Cell Tower**

Dear Community Members,

I am writing to let you know that I've been working with Tilson Infrastructure on the possibility of erecting a cell tower on North Haven. The tower would be located on the Town's Crabtree Farm property (also called the State Pit) on South Shore Road. This is the same general location where we are considering building a new Public Safety Building. To ensure cellular coverage in the village, Tilson would place a repeater on the Town's water tank.

The first step in the process was to sign a lease under which the Town agrees to provide space to Tilson and they agree to pay the Town \$800 per month in rent – once the tower construction has begun. The Select Board authorized me to sign the lease on the Town's behalf, which I did on April 21, 2022. You should know that signing the lease does not mean the tower will be constructed. It just means we can continue to move forward. The lease has a termination provision under which the parties agree to terminate if Tilson is unable to obtain a permit to construct the tower from our Planning Board.

We have an ordinance on cell tower construction dated July 29, 2004. That ordinance describes the process we will follow to determine whether a cell tower is appropriate for our community. The ordinance requires a public hearing before the Planning Board makes its decision.

In order to make the tower feasible from a technical perspective, Tilson would need a 125-foot tower, that could later be increased up to 150 feet. Our ordinance limits cell tower height to 75 feet, unless the tower is located on a "Town owned tower or structure" in which case the height can be increased to 125 feet. Since the tower would be constructed directly on the ground at the Town's Crabtree Farm property, it would not be built on a Town owned tower or structure, so it could not be above 75 feet in height. Therefore, if we want to move forward with this proposal, we would need to amend the ordinance to allow for a taller tower.

Tilson would construct a monopole tower, not a girder style tower (the Eifel Tower is a girder style tower). I asked them to let me know if the tower would be visible from three locations: the Ball Field, Southern Harbor House, and North Haven Grocery. Tilson's *preliminary* analysis shows the tower would not be visible from the Ball Field or Southern Harbor House, and people might see the top few feet from the grocery store. As we move forward, Tilson plans to prepare professional photo simulations so we will be able to see what the tower would look like from various locations on the island.

Both the Select Board and I support this project. Please share your views and participate in the public discussion as we move along.

If you have any questions, please give me a call or send me an email, [administrator@northhavenmaine.org](mailto:administrator@northhavenmaine.org).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Lattimer", written over the printed name.

Rick Lattimer  
Town Administrator