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To: Mayor Casale and the Beacon City Council
From: John Clarke, City Planner
Date: December 9, 2018
Re: Verizon 7 Cross Street Photo-Simulations

I have reviewed the November 19, 2019 Verizon photo-simulations of alternative small cell facilities at the 7 Cross Street municipal lot. The simulations provide additional information for the City Council in considering what alternatives might fit best within the surrounding residential and historic context.

A decorative pole with all the accessory equipment hidden in the base or pole would appear to be the best solution. The wood examples either hang the bulky accessory equipment off the lower section of the pole in plain sight or hide the equipment behind a fence at the base. Too many wood utility poles already exist on this block and another pole just adds to the clutter.

A dark green decorative pole would blend better into the background greenery with clean lines, no distracting equipment, and similarities to the traditional street lights along this section of Main Street. The attached light fixtures may not be necessary, given the two existing street lights on adjacent utility poles, but could replace one or both of the conventional street lights.

Unfortunately, Verizon's simulations S-1D and S-1E show exterior hanging equipment, even though the title blocks clearly state "with equipment located in enlarged base." These types of decorative poles (see attached examples) are intended to conceal the associated equipment. Placing exterior equipment on the pole defeats the stealth design. The Council has the ability to require visual mitigation, including stealth design, under Section 223-24.5 K.

Verizon representatives should explain why the accessory equipment cannot be concealed. They should also provide more detailed specifications with materials and dimensions for the decorative poles, as well as specifications for the potential light fixtures, which will have to be consistent with the draft criteria in the proposed lighting amendment now under review by the Council.



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