

Towers

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be painted to "minimize visual impact."

"Most model ordinances we looked at didn't get into appearance," Box said. "I suppose that's because it's almost impossible to disguise a pig."

The tower that is the subject of the court action would be built behind the old township municipal building at the intersection of Rt. 309 and Carverton Rd. Cellular One, which has since been taken over by AT&T, first approached the township in 1997 about building the tower, implying that there was little the township could do to prevent its construction. The company and the township signed a lease agreement for the land, with the township being paid \$800 per month.

The supervisors approval of the tower was appealed by three families that live near the site, and Judge Burke gave his ruling July 19. Cellular One has said it will appeal the ruling to Commonwealth Court, but the township declined to be a party. "We're not going to actively participate in the appeal," Box said. "It's their (Cellular One's) fight." He said the

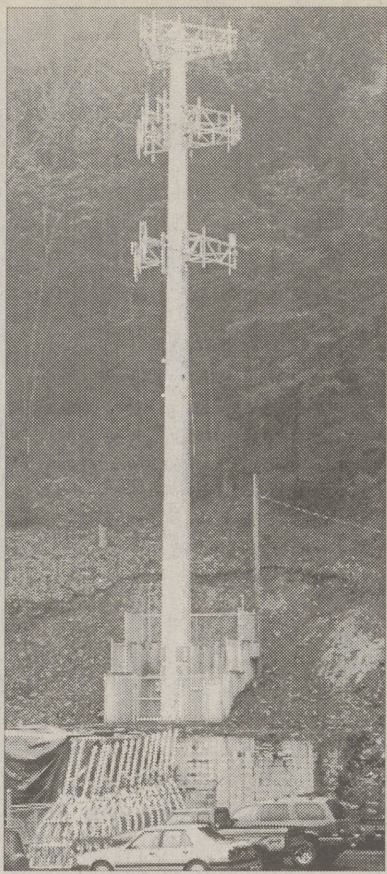
A hope that cell phone companies will "take the easier path" of putting antennas on buildings

township will be obligated to follow the higher court's ruling.

Box said when Cellular One approached the township, he suggested they consider a site near the new municipal building on E. Center St., but the company said it was unsuitable.

The township has received another application, this one from Nextel, for a tower off Davis St., on the hill behind St. Therese's Church. Box said he anticipated more applications in coming months, and the ordinance needs to be in place to regulate them. One section requires that companies attempt to find space on an existing tower, or on a building, before building a new antenna.

A second special meeting will likely be held to discuss any changes to the draft ordinance.



POST FILE PHOTO

This tower, behind Rider's World in Trucksville, would not be affected by a new ordinance regulating communications towers.

Highlights of proposed ordinance

Here are some highlights of the draft ordinance being considered by the Kingston Twp. Board of Supervisors.

- Where possible, an antenna should be attached to an existing building.
- An antenna may not be located on a building that is listed on a historic register, or is in a historic district.
- Antennas may not be mounted on single-family or two-family dwellings
- Antennas mounted on buildings may exceed the height limitation of the zoning district by not more than 20 feet.
- If an antenna is free-standing, an 8-foot-high security fence must surround the base and any accompanying building.
- The tower must be fully automated and unattended in regular use. In order to qualify for a special exception to the zoning regulations, the following apply:
 - Applicants must show that the tower or antenna must be located where it is proposed in order to operate properly.
 - Every effort must be made to locate the tower below the ridge line of nearby hills.
 - Before requesting permission to construct a new antenna, applicants must show they have made a good-faith effort to mount their antenna on an existing building or tower. They must have contacted every owner of property within 1/4 mile of the proposed site.
 - Applicants must show that the proposed height of the antenna is the minimum necessary to function properly.
 - In all zoning districts, the maximum height will be 150 feet, with exceptions up to 200 feet if setbacks are increased by one foot for each additional foot of height.
 - Towers must be set back from adjacent property lines and buildings at least the maximum collapsible "fall zone" as certified by a registered engineer, plus 25 feet.
 - All guy wires and buildings must be enclosed by a fence.
 - A buffer of evergreen plantings must surround the fence.
 - Towers must be painted to minimize visual impact.
 - A tower left unused for 12 consecutive months must be removed within six months, or the township may have it taken down and charge the cost to the owner.

Other towns just waiting

While Kingston Township moves to regulate communications towers, other communities are taking a wait-and-see approach. In Dallas Township, the site of the first controversial tower, Len Kozick, zoning officer, said he knew of no discussion about a tower ordinance.

Dallas Borough does not have any free-standing towers, said Milton Lutsey, borough manager. "The antennas that are in the borough are on water towers," he said. "We haven't discussed it."

John Krupa, zoning officer for Jackson Township, said the subject came up some time ago, but nothing has been done. "We've looked at it and done some research on it," Krupa said, mostly relating to appearance. He said there are no active applications that he knew of.

In Lehman Township, which has no towers at this time, a company has made preliminary inquiries, said Charles Bartlett, zoning officer. "We do have areas that are conducive to towers," he said. But the township is waiting to look into regulations until the first application is received.

Internet

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room," said Mary Anne Layden, Ph. D., the Director of Education at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Cognitive Therapy. "It should be set up in the living room or some other place where a young user is conscious of another's presence. Sometimes it's just the scent of a parent that keeps kids from getting into trouble."

Computer usage outside the home is more difficult to monitor. "The first thing parents have to recognize is the fact that their children are much more sophisticated about all things related to the computer than they are," said Layden. "They should ask questions like does this school or library have an Internet policy? Do these places use blocking software or a blocking service from an Internet provider? How well are the computer stations monitored?"

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has very specific guidelines governing the use of its computers which offer Internet access. "Children under the age of 18 have to have the signature of a parent before we allow them to use those computers and children under the age of 16 can only use the computer with a parent's supervision," said Martha Butler, head librarian. "We developed our policy after consulting with other libraries from around the country and we are very comfortable with it."

Such precautions may seem unnecessary, but Layden, who has dealt with sexual predators and their victims, knows how impres-

"It's about giving individual parents, teachers and librarians the information and the skills they need to protect those who can't protect themselves."

Atty. Bernard Walter
Seminar organizer

sionable young minds are. "Pictures are received by the brain as events and therefore are not challenged. They go in unbuffered and they're stored as toxic memories," she said. "There are not healthy messages in Internet pornography. There is no place for love, kindness, tenderness, marriage, trust or intimacy."

The prevalence of sexually explicit material on the Internet continues to increase and experts now estimate up to 70 percent of all e-commerce is conducted at these sites. This virtually uncontrolled growth has all but stymied law enforcement officials. "The FBI has established an 'Innocent Images' program in which agents pose as very young children on the Internet to trap pedophiles," said Layden. "That program has been replicated all over the world but it is not a match for a \$12 billion industry."

Michael Burnside, who works with Commonwealth Telephone

Company and helped develop the Internet provider Epix, knows how pervasive the problem has become. "The fact is there is some very bad stuff out there," he said. "What we have done as an Internet server is remove about 12 or 15 of the worst offenders, those sites which have crossed the line of legality."

Epix also offers, at a cost to the consumer, a blocking service known as Cyberpatrol. "This sits on top of a home personal computer and is very effective at blocking offensive material," said Burnside. "But there isn't technology out there that is totally effective because there is always the need to balance the good and the bad. You want your high school student to be able to research the topic of breast cancer for a report and that would not be possible if blocking services and software blocked everything containing the word breast."

History lists are an effective way to monitor computer usage as well. "These tools require some technical expertise but they're one way to keep track of the sites accessed from a home PC without the user's awareness," said Burnside.

A combination of new technology and old-fashioned common sense is the best recipe for preventing children from becoming victims. "The concern is individual," said Walter. "It's about giving individual parents, teachers and librarians the information and the skills they need to protect those who can't protect themselves."

Seminar highlights

"Sex, Kids & the Internet" will be presented for the public Thursday, Oct. 7, in the PP&L Business Center auditorium in the East Mountain office park, Rt. 115, Wilkes-Barre. The program begins at 7 p.m. Reservations are not necessary.

Participants are:
Moderator: Bill Kelly, WVIA TV & FM

The Internet Expert: Michael Burnside, Epix Internet Services
The Psychologist: Prof. Mary Anne Layden, Dept. of Psychiatry,

U. of Penn.
The Law: Atty. Bernard Walter, former vice crimes prosecutor, San Francisco

A speaker from the educational community will be included.

A related program for college students and teachers at King's College will be presented at 8 p.m., Wed., Oct. 6. It will be shown live on WVIA-TV, and will feature Donna Rice Hughes, who is best known for an episode with Presidential candidate Gary Hart, but who is now vice president of

marketing and public relations for Enough is Enough, a non-profit organization that works to keep the Internet safe for children.

Dr. Layden will also speak separately with students at College Misericordia and King's College.

The seminar is the October program of the Ethics Institute at College Misericordia. It will be recorded on videotape for possible national broadcast, and may be translated into other languages for international distribution.

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