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Borough of Phoenixville

Small Wireless Facility Design Guidelines [Res. No. 2020-9, 2/11/2020]

I. PURPOSE AND COMPLIANCE.

The Borough of Phoenixville finds that in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of its residents and to reasonably manage and protect the public rights-of-way (the “ROW”) and its uses in the Borough of Phoenixville, it is in the best interest of the Borough of Phoenixville and its residents and businesses to establish Small Wireless Facility Design Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) to provide the aesthetic requirements and other specifications and reasonable conditions that small wireless facilities and wireless support structures installed within the public ROW must meet prior to and following installation.

The objective of these Guidelines is to strike a balance between preserving and protecting the character of the Borough of Phoenixville through careful design, siting, and camouflaging techniques to blend these facilities into their surrounding environment and provide other reasonable conditions upon such placement and use of the ROW, while enhancing the ability of small wireless facilities carriers to deploy small wireless facilities and wireless support structures in the Borough of Phoenixville effectively and efficiently so that residents, businesses, and visitors benefit from ubiquitous and robust wireless service availability.

These Guidelines apply to requests to locate small wireless facilities in the ROW and ongoing use of the ROW for such purposes. These Guidelines are administered through the permitting process conducted by the codes department or zoning officer of the Borough of Phoenixville.

Placement or modification of a small wireless facilities and/or wireless support structures shall comply with these Guidelines at the time the permit for installation or modification is approved and as amended from time to time. Wireless service providers and permittees are required to comply with municipal ordinances, codes and other applicable law and regulations.

II. DEFINITIONS.

The definitions contained in the Borough of Phoenixville’s Zoning Ordinance as applicable to wireless communications facilities are incorporated into this policy by reference as though fully set forth herein.

III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

As part of the permitting process, the following must be provided:

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A. PROOF OF AGENT DESIGNATION (IF APPLICABLE)

If the applicant is serving as an agent of a small wireless operator, the applicant must provide written documentation of the agent designation signed by the operator.

B. MAP.

The applicant must include an aerial map showing the location of the proposed or existing support structure to which the small wireless facility is proposed to be attached, or from which a small wireless facility is proposed to be removed.

C. PHOTO SIMULATIONS.

For all applications to locate small wireless facilities in the ROW, the applicant shall provide photo simulations from at least two reasonable line-of-site locations near the proposed project site. The photo simulations must be taken from the viewpoints of the greatest pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

D. CONSOLIDATED APPLICATIONS.

An applicant seeking to construct, modify, collocate or replace more than one small wireless facility or more than one wireless support structure within the Borough of Phoenixville may file a consolidated application for multiple small wireless facility requests or wireless support structure requests provided the requests grouped on a consolidated application only address substantially the same type of small wireless facilities or substantially the same type of wireless support structures.

E. SITE AND OTHER PLANS AND STRUCTURAL CALCULATIONS.

The applicant must include fully dimensioned site plans, elevation drawings and structural calculations that depict any known existing wireless facilities with all existing transmission equipment and other improvements, the proposed facility with all proposed transmission equipment and other improvements, and the legal boundaries of the existing right-of-way and any associated access and utility easements. Fully dimensioned site plans shall indicate the spacing from existing curb, driveways, sidewalks, light poles and any other poles or appurtenances.

F. FULL DESCRIPTION OF NUMBER AND DIMENSIONS OF FACILITIES AND/OR STRUCTURES TO BE INSTALLED.

The applicant must include a full description of the number and dimensions of all small wireless facilities proposed to be installed and the wireless support structure, either new or existing, to be utilized for each small

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wireless facility. For all equipment proposed to be installed, the applicant must include: (1) the manufacturer's name and model number; (2) physical dimensions, including without limitation, height, width, depth and weight with mounts and other necessary hardware; and (3) the ambient noise level generated from the equipment, if any.

G. OWNER'S AUTHORIZATION.

For any application to attach a small wireless facility to a wireless support structure that is not owned by the Borough of Phoenixville, the applicant must submit evidence sufficient to show that either: (1) applicant owns the proposed support structure; or (2) applicant has obtained the owner's written authorization to file the application.

IV. AESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES.

A. ANTENNAS.

1. Each small wireless antenna shall be located entirely within a shroud or canister type enclosure.
2. The diameter of the antenna enclosure at its widest point should not be wider than two times the diameter of the top of the wireless support structure. The enclosure shall not exceed six cubic feet in volume.
3. All antenna enclosures shall either be mounted to the top of the wireless support structure pole and aligned with the centerline of the wireless support structure, or mounted to the side of the wireless support structure such that the vertical centerline of the antenna enclosure shall be parallel with the wireless support structure with the height of the side mounted antenna being at a location on the wireless support structure noted in the application and approved by the Borough of Phoenixville, but at least 10 feet above ground level at its lowest point.
4. Tree "topping" or the improper pruning of trees is prohibited.

B. CABLES AND WIRES.

All cables, wires and connectors related to the small wireless facility must be fully concealed on the wireless support structure and shall match the color of the wireless support structure. There shall be no external cables and wires related to the small wireless facility hanging off or otherwise exposed on the wireless support structure.

C. COLORS.

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All colors shall match the background of any wireless support structure that the facilities are located upon, including equipment cabinets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of existing wood utility poles, finishes of conduit shall be zinc, aluminum or stainless steel, or colored to match those metal finishes, and equipment cabinets shall be the color of brushed aluminum.

D. EQUIPMENT ENCLOSURES/CONCEALMENT.

1. Equipment enclosures, including electric meters, shall be as small as possible, but in no event larger than 28 cubic feet in volume. Ground-mounted equipment shall incorporate concealment elements into the proposed design matching color and materials of the wireless support structure, unless other materials or colors are approved by the Borough of Phoenixville. Concealment may include, but shall not be limited to, landscaping, strategic placement in less obtrusive locations and placement within existing or replacement street furniture.
2. Radio equipment shall be fully enclosed within an equipment cabinet or concealed within the antenna shroud enclosure matching the color and materials of the wireless support structure, unless other materials or colors are approved by the Borough of Phoenixville.
3. Landscaping concealing equipment enclosures shall be planted in such quantity and size such that 100% screening is achieved within two years of installation.

E. SIGNAGE/LOGOS/LIGHTS/DECALS/COOLING FANS.

1. Signage: The small wireless facility permittee shall post its name, location identifying information, and emergency telephone number in an area on the cabinet of the small wireless facility that is visible to the public. Signage required under this section shall not exceed four inches by six inches. If no cabinet exists, the signage shall be placed at the base of the pole.
2. Lights: New small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall not be illuminated, except in accord with state or federal regulations, or unless illumination is integral to the camouflaging strategy such as design intended to look like a streetlight pole.
3. Logos/Decals: The small wireless facility operator/permittee shall remove or paint over unnecessary equipment manufacturer decals. The color shall match or shall be as approved by the Borough of Phoenixville. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall not include advertisements and may only display information required by a federal, state or local agency. The small wireless facility

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operator/permittee shall utilize the smallest and lowest visibility RF warning sticker required by government or electric utility regulations. Placement of the RF sticker shall be as close to the antenna as possible.

4. Cooling Fans: In residential areas, the small wireless facility operator/permittee shall use a passive cooling system. In the event that a fan is needed, the small wireless facility operator/permittee shall use a cooling fan with a low noise profile.

V. LOCATION REQUIREMENTS.

A. CO-LOCATION PREFERENCE.

It is the Borough of Phoenixville's strong preference that whenever an applicant proposes to place a new small wireless facility that the applicant collocate the same on existing wireless support structures.

B. LEAST PREFERABLE LOCATIONS.

Residential Districts and Historic Districts are the least preferred areas for new small wireless facilities.

C. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATE LOCATIONS.

The Borough of Phoenixville reserves the right to propose an alternate location for a small wireless facility and/or wireless support structure to the location proposed in the application within 100 feet of the proposed location or within a distance that is equivalent to the width of the ROW in or on which the small wireless facility and/or wireless support structure is proposed, whichever is greater, which the operator shall use if it has the right to use the alternate location on reasonable terms and conditions and the alternate location does not impose technical limits or additional costs.

D. GUIDELINES ON PLACEMENT.

The Borough of Phoenixville desires to promote cleanly organized and streamlined facilities using the smallest and least intrusive means available to provide wireless services to the community. Generally, a small wireless facility and/or wireless support structure shall match and be consistent with the materials and finish of the wireless support structure, adjacent municipal-owned poles, and of the surrounding area adjacent to their location. In the absence of adjacent municipal-owned poles, the wireless support structure shall match the materials and finish of the adjacent utility poles.

The following additional guidelines on placement shall apply:

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1. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located no closer than 150 feet away, radially, from another small wireless facility and wireless support structure.
2. A combination wireless support structure and streetlight pole should only be located where an existing pole can be removed and replaced, or at a new location where it has been identified that a streetlight is necessary.
3. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located in a manner that does not impede, obstruct, or hinder usual public pedestrian or vehicular travel or public safety on a ROW.
4. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located in a manner that does not obstruct the legal use of a ROW by a utility provider.
5. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located in a manner that does not violate or conflict with the Borough of Phoenixville's code, applicable law and regulations, or these Guidelines.
6. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located in a manner that does not violate the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
7. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located in a manner that does not negatively impact the structural integrity of the associated wireless support structure.
8. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located in alignment with existing trees, utility poles, and streetlights.
9. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located equal distance between trees when possible, with a minimum of 15 feet separation such that no proposed disturbance shall occur within the critical root zone of any tree.
10. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located with appropriate clearance from existing utilities.
11. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located so as not to be located along the frontage of any building deemed to be of historic significance on a federal, state, or local level.
12. Small wireless facilities and wireless support structures shall be located not within sight triangles at street intersections.

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13. New wireless support structures shall not be located directly in front of any existing residential, commercial or industrial structure.
14. To the greatest extent possible, new wireless support structures shall be located in line with existing lot lines or an equidistance from any two existing structures. In areas of the Borough of Phoenixville where multiple structures abut each other and/or where no side lot setback requirements exist, new wireless support structures shall not be located directly in front of an entrance or window of any existing structure.

VI. LIMITATIONS.

While the Borough of Phoenixville fully intends to apply the guidelines established in this policy uniformly to all small wireless facility applications, there may be circumstances where not every specific guideline may be met. In this case, municipal staff will use its reasonable discretion in approving small wireless facilities permit applications that deviate from the strict application of this policy.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF POLICY.

This Policy will be effective as of the date of the adoption of the enabling Resolution.

ACCEPTABLE LOCATIONS EXAMPLES.

Figure 1 - Example of Acceptable Location Between Residential Homes.

Figure 2 - Example of Acceptable Location Between Commercial Buildings.

Figure 1 Example of Acceptable Locations Between Residential Homes

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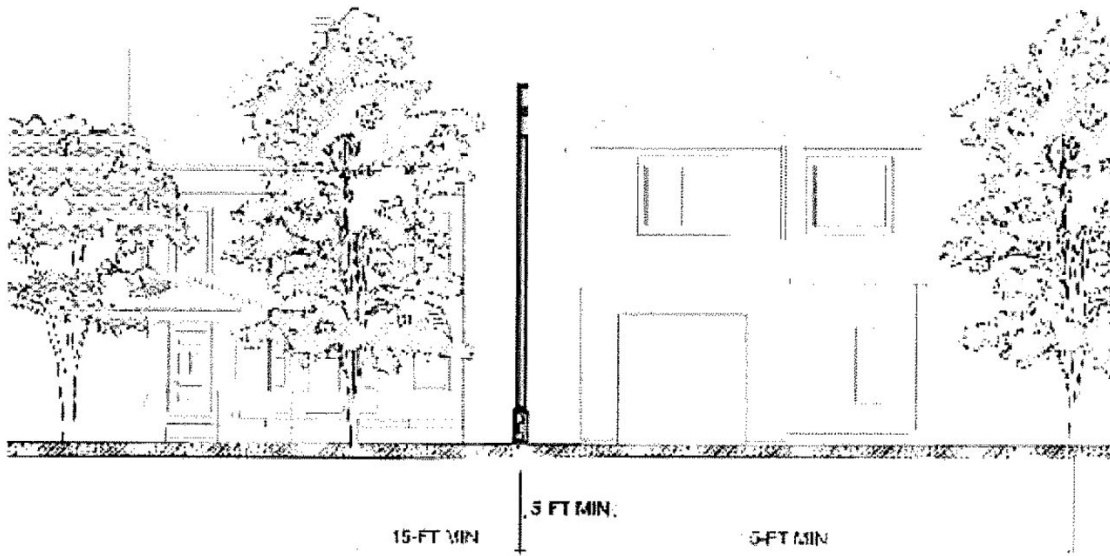


Figure 2
Example of Acceptable Locations Between Commercial Buildings

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