Doppler Radar Tower Update

Greater Pine Island Civic Association

January 5, 2021

By Jeffrey Waller

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Doppler Radar Tower Meeting Agenda

- Refresher on Key Issues
- Updated Timeline
- Meteorological Support
- Proposed County Meeting
- Additional Contacts
- New Contacts
- Stringfellow Rd View
- Pine Island Eagle Ad
- Next Steps
- Contact Information

Refresher on Key Issues

- Request a **Special Exception** in accordance with LDC Sec 34-1447, which limits antenna height to **90 feet**, to allow construction of a 110 foot Doppler Radar Tower
- Two **Variance** Requests on Pine Island:
  - (1) Variance request from LDC Section 33-1087 which limits the overall height of wireless communication facilities to a maximum height of **45 feet** above mean sea level, to allow for a maximum height of 110 feet; and
  - (2) Variance request from LDC Sec. 34-1447(d)(2) which requires a monopole design, to allow for a **lattice antenna**-supporting structure.

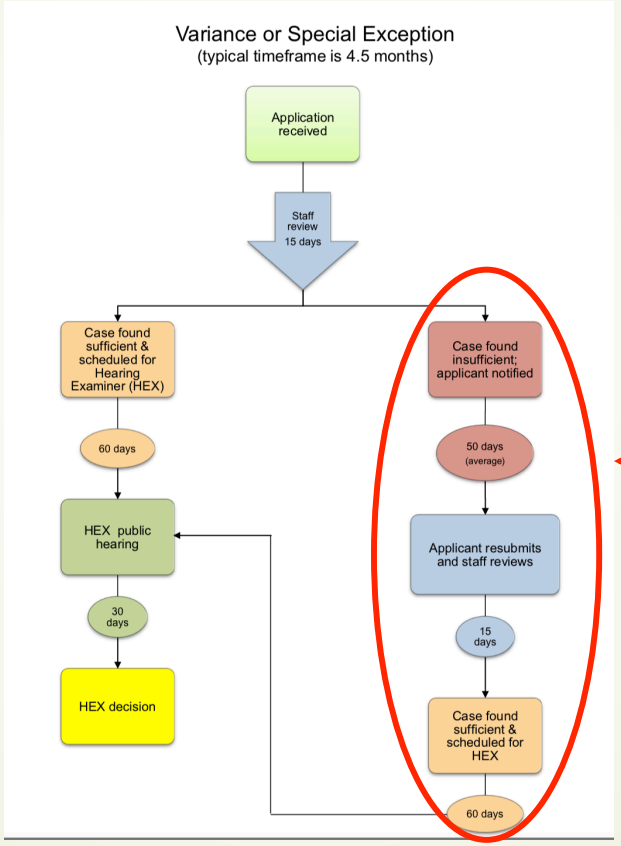
Refresher on Key Issues

- Department of Community Development – Zoning Section request for additional information
  - Further clarification on how and when information will be formally provided to larger community resources such as National Weather Center, National Weather Service or Emergency Management
  - LDC Section 33-1087(e) states height variances must also be found to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the general public (not just the health, safety, or welfare of the customers or residents of the property in question) – concerned only customers of WINK news would be the primary beneficiaries
  - Staff is still concerned about consistency with:
    - Lee Plan Policy 2.1.3 – Public uses/utilities vs. commercial benefit
    - Lee Plan Policy 24.4.4 - Reflect the Coastal Rural character and unique culture of Greater Pine Island

Refresher on Key Issues

- **POLICY 24.4.4:** In the Coastal Rural future land use category, non-residential development is restricted to minor commercial development.
- Uses are limited to those that reflect the Coastal Rural character and unique culture of Greater Pine Island, such as animal clinics, bait and tackle shops, ecotourism, farm and feed supply stores, food stores, lawn and garden supply stores, restaurants (excluding fast food), roadside/ produce stands, specialty retail, and plant nurseries.

Updated Timeline



Dec 15: 30 Day Extension for Resubmission

Jan 30: Determination on Sufficiency

By Mar 30: Hearing Examiner Scheduled

Meteorological Support

- **Mike and Cindy Rapsik**
- Pine Island Residents
- Undergrad Bachelor of Science in Meteorology
- 40 years experience in electrical engineering/meteorology in Military and National Weather Service
- Opposed to Doppler Radar Tower
- Great technology support

Additional Contacts

- St. James City Civic Association – Cindy Bickford, Diane Horn?
- ROAR (Rise Up, Organize, Agitate, Resist) – Susan McGuire
- Pine Island Garden Club – John & Marty Kendall
- Pine Island Realty – Brian Faulkner
- Century 21 Realty – Mike Shevlin
- Remax – George Sand (Eagle Lake Estates)
- Eagle Lake Estates Development – Junior Gatewood
- KOA Campground – Bob & Vicky
- County Commissioner 1st District – Kevin Ruane
- National Weather Service – Tampa Bay

Proposed Letter and County Meeting – Suggested by Noel Andress

- David Loveland, Director - Community Development
- Mikki Rozdolski, Manager, Community Development Operations
- Michael Jacob, Deputy County Attorney
- Scott Wilkinson, President, GPICA and Pine Island Resident
- Mike and/or Cindy Rapsik, Pine Island Resident
- Jeff and Lisa Waller, Pine Island Resident
- Deborah Swisher-Hicks, Pine Island Resident

New Contacts

- Follow up with above non-responses
- Jim McLaughlin, former WINK weather forecaster and Pine Island resident
- NBC2 - Doppler Coverage

Stringfellow Rd View – Per WINK (300-400 feet)

Stringfellow Rd View – Per Actual Photo of NBC2 Tower at 400 Feet

Pine Island Eagle Ad

ARE YOU AWARE?

Fort Myers Broadcasting Co., “WINK”, is proposing a one million watt,
110 foot Doppler Radar Tower on Pine Island at 4798 Stringfellow Road in Saint James City.

It will transmit radiation in all directions 24/7 365 days a year.

Don’t let it change the character and culture of Pine Island.

Watch the paper for the hearing date, if you care, be there!

Questions or Concerns? Contact Email: stopdoppler@gmail.com

Next Steps: RADR

- Form a residents ad hoc committee (**RADR** – **R**esidents **A**gainst **D**oppler **R**adar!) to:
- Leaders to address five suggested key focus areas:
  - Zoning/Variance objections (Jeff Waller)
  - Health impact awareness (Lisa Waller)
  - Communication/Website Administration (Open – Shari Perkins?)
  - Fact checking and hearing process support (Deborah Swisher Hicks)
  - Wildlife impact (Catherine Greenleaf)

Next Steps: RADR

- Presentations to other Pine Island organizations (and solicit support)
  - St. James City Civic Association (Cindy Bickford or Diane Horn)
  - ROAR (Rise Up/Organize/Agitate/Resist) (Susan McGuire)
  - Pine Island Garden Club (John & Marty Kendall)
  - Others?
- Mike/Cindy Rapsik to discuss with Dirk Danley Jr (County Zoning)
- Pine Island Eagle Interview with Mike/Cindy Rapsik
- Need help in setting up Informational Website to refer people to (or Facebook)
- Establish contact at "Prospect" Facebook site – Suggestion?
- Deborah Swisher-Hicks to canvas Eagle Lake Estates residents
- Deborah Swisher-Hicks to hand out flyers at Winn Dixie

Next Steps: RADR

- Jeff Waller to draft GPICA opposition letter to Lee County (same audience as proposed meeting) for Scott Wilkinson to sign/send
- Jeff Waller to set up proposed Lee County meeting to register opposition
- Continue to monitor WINK/Morris Depew communication with the Lee County Zoning Department
- Waiting for responses to 19 questions sent to Morris Depew on Sept 29, 2020 following the Public Informational Meeting
- Continue to liaise with Noel Andress (land developer and zoning expertise)
- Establish contact Greg Stuart? (real estate development planning)
- Deborah Swisher-Hicks to follow up on property value impact

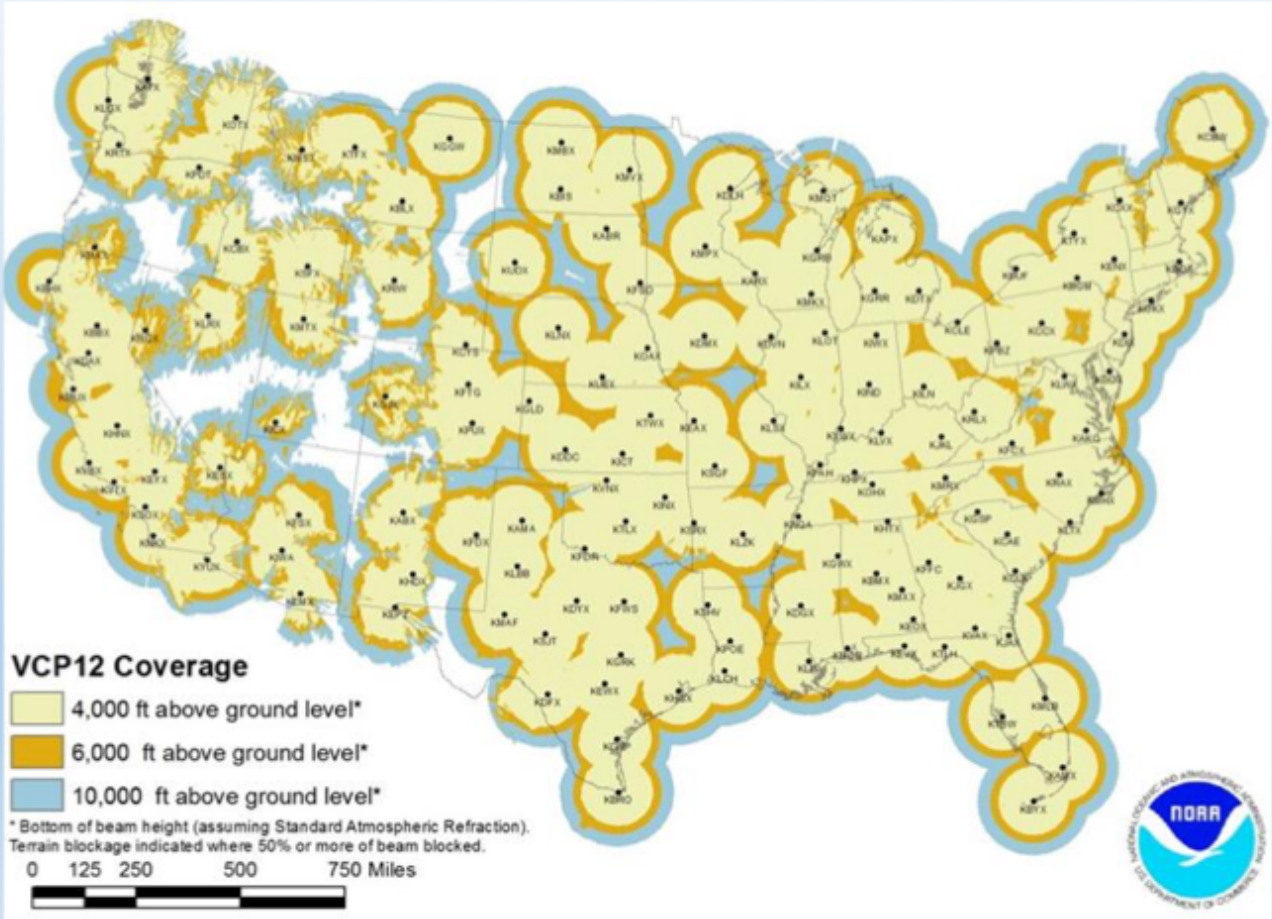
Contact Information

- Jeff Waller contact info:
  - Cell: 262-639-1234
  - Email: jmwaller333@gmail.com
  - Project Email: stopdoppler@gmail.com
- Deborah Swisher-Hicks contact info:
  - Cell: 916-990-4186
  - Email: debs.wish2@gmail.com

Backup Slides

New Contacts

What Does the Gap Look Like When NBC2's Doppler Radar is Superimposed on This Chart?

Is This Chart Really an Accurate Depiction of a Gap in Coverage?

NWS Local Doppler Radars