

April 2, 2026

I think there are important changes to be made to the process we are going through in Tinmouth.

Using legal jargon with we normal folk doesn't work. Just agreeing to a schedule of deadlines was stressful to the max in this household back in February. Being an RN, I'm very comfortable with medical "language." But when speaking with lay people, it is considered unprofessional to use medical jargon. Patients are sent home with instructions in everyday English (or their preferred language). We want them to understand! I know I'm not the first to ask for this, but if citizens are to participate in legal proceedings, they need to be able to understand what is being asked of them or what the situation is that they need to respond to.

Do all tower companies use the same approach to siting new towers?

The tower proposal in Tinmouth had a problem right from the start with ITW and a private landowner signing a non-revocable contract. This took place before Larry and I knew about the tower, so it was early on in the process. I feel sorry for the landowner who needs the extra monthly income of the rent of a small piece of his land, but feels regret for what's happened since he signed. It's not that we don't want better cell phone coverage, but a tower in the location chosen was not well thought out at all. Calling it a "radio tower" when we all know it'll be a cell tower is disingenuous.

If ITW had announced and held a public meeting in the Community Center to talk about "Improving Cell Coverage," this could have been a different story. The possibilities could have included town property or wooded property that's sparsely populated or other considerations. The process would have been transparent. It could have been a positive outcome!

Philippa Dorfman wrote a strong letter that I agree with most of. Luckily, Tinmouth's select board and planning commission responded to citizens' concerns about the proposed tower without being prodded! I am so sorry they have to go through the process again for a 20 foot shorter proposed tower.

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