

Hello, my name is Naomi Bombardi-Wilson and I'm a resident of East Wallingford. Some of you may know me from the play *Murder by the Book* which raised money for The Gilbert Hart Library or as the co-chair of the committee for and an organizer of Wallingford Day.

The proposed tower will be 1500 feet, or so, as the crow flies, from my front door.

First, on behalf of neighbors who have expressed their gratitude on Front Porch Forum and to me directly, I'd like to thank the Seward family, David, Louise and Aaron for making their property available to their neighbors, and the greater neighborhood as a whole, to walk, cross country ski "the top of the world" (and boy is it beautiful and breathtaking up there) and hunt. It is not only generous but neighborly.

That said... it saddens me that they would then consider such an unneighborly thing as a cell tower to impede this landscape and can only assume its because they have not been informed of the health hazards this will impose on them and their neighbors. And it's my understanding from some of the Seward family that due to the high cost of property taxes, and the possibility of these increasing in the near future, they have been given no other real option if they also want to maintain the land.

Sadly, however, no one will be able to hunt, hike or cross country ski that area again safely if this tower is erected.

Cell towers emit **radio frequency electromagnetic radiation (herein RF-EMFs)**

The World Health Organization has listed RF-EMFs as a class 2B possible carcinogen.

This is backed by a study in Brazil which The American Academy of Pediatrics has cited, stating RF-EMFs as a danger to children. "In recent years, concern has increased about exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic radiation emitted from cell phones and phone station antennae. An Egyptian study confirmed concerns that living nearby mobile phone base stations increased the risk for developing: Headaches, Memory problems, Dizziness, Depression and Sleep problem and also concluded that high exposure to RF-EMF produced by mobile phone base station towers was associated with delayed fine and gross motor skills, spatial working memory, and attention in school adolescents compared to students who were exposed to low RF-EMF

Additionally this exposure increases the rate of mortality by all cancers and specifically by breast, cervix, lung, and esophageal cancers.

A recent medical study published in *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine* by [Dr. Robert R. Brown](#), Vice President of Scientific Research and Clinical Affairs for the Environmental Health Trust, released on February 11 2025 revealed that an ultrasound study proved wireless radiation can cause blood cells to stick together, a cause of cancer.

The following countries will not allow a cell tower within 10000 feet (about 2 miles) of a school, hospital or neighborhood: Switzerland, Italy, and even China a country known for exploiting child labor. Even THEY won't allow a tower this close to children for health reasons.

Surveys of people living near cell tower antennas in [France](#), [Spain](#), [Iraq](#), [India](#), [Germany](#), [Egypt](#), [Poland](#) have found significantly higher reports of health issues including sleep issues, fatigue and headaches. In studies of people living near a cell tower and those in a safer zone, the group living closer to the antennas had, for example, statistically significant higher frequency of micronuclei and a rise in lipid **peroxidation** in their blood. These changes are considered biomarkers predictive of cancer.

The International Association of Firefighters has officially [opposed](#) cell towers on its stations since 2004 after a study found neurological damage in firefighters with antennas on their fire stations.

Those who say we are being exposed every day through our phones are correct. We are. But you can turn your phone off, attach an anti-RF-EMF device (like safe sleeve etc) to it, and put it away. A tower can not be turned off and emits larger frequencies non-stop 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Additionally, cell towers can catch fire and they contain hazardous materials, creating serious safety issue as cell tower compounds contain hazardous materials such as diesel fuel and lead-acid batteries. These can leak and pollute our pristine area.

Lastly, cell towers reduce property values. Within .5 miles from a tower, your property reduces in value by 2.6 – 9.78%

For reference material and many more statistics please feel free to explore the Environmental Health Trust website at: ehtrust.org/cell-tower

The only way this tower is “benefiting” the town is by making it possible for the Swards to afford their property taxes. There has got to be another way that we can help our neighbors achieve this goal. Just as an example, throwing out ideas, if each of the 2079 residents paid just \$20 per year as an entrance fee for use of this piece of land for hiking, cross-country skiing and hunting, it would solve that cost for them. If the residents refuse to help out their neighbor who allowed them this privilege gratis for so many years in this way, well, then the Swards could sell just two - 10 acre lots of this land for high-end homes, if the town would help them with rezoning. They could then invest that money and most likely make more

than they would make from the towers yearly lease, and more quickly. And the town would gain more property income taxes to boot.

The cell tower construction is going against what most Wallingford residents have voiced as important to them per the last town plan dated 2018 – ie. quiet, community, beauty, friendly, health, and the desire for more restaurants and the wish for business development that would employ a large number of people. There is no long term employment for Vermonters created by this tower. All the financial benefits of this tower are going to the people of Massachusetts.

Not only that, the tower is antithetical to the missions of The Rotary International (which include fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation, hygiene, improving maternal and child health and protecting the environment among others) the founder of which, Paul Harris, called Wallingford his hometown, and wouldn't that be sadly ironic.

Not only are cell towers the cause of cancer, headaches, sleeplessness, a stressor to dairy cows (souring of their milk) and other animals, but the actual construction itself creates noise and erosion pollution. Additionally, it's an eye sore when entering East Wallingford from 103 on 140 and to various home owners, from all those with homes along Fieldstone Way, several on Maranville and those on Parker. This goes against the town plan which states that Wallingford "...is a historic district whose character and aesthetic appeal should be maintained" (pg 8) There is nothing historical about a 140' cell tower.

Additionally the town plan emphasizes the importance of "encourage [ing the] preservation of farm fields, viable forestry operations and natural areas (see page 12) The erection of a tower negates this. Yes, the town plan also says that East Wallingford would be suitable for light manufacturing of which they included "public utility substations and telecommunication facilities" but this was written almost a decade ago, years before studies and medical journals published the proof of the detrimental health effects of these towers, as I stated earlier. I would like to request a new town plan be drafted.

I understand that because of section 248a legislation my arguments here might be futile and in vain, and the construction of this tower may go forward regardless. If that is the case, a few things.

One, will Verizon and VTel guarantee in writing that all residents within two miles of the cell tower be free of anti-indemnification clauses, and if the health of the residents deteriorates that they will compensate all medical bills plus \$1million dollars per resident? Second, will they cover the copper infusion painting of each house within this same area to reduce the exposure of these residents to RF-EMFs?

If they can not guarantee these things, it is because they are aware of the health risks of the towers as they noted themselves. See T-Mobile's 2023 Securities and Exchange Commission filing or your wireless companies phone protection plan (ex Verizons is paragraph 16) where they refer to RF radiation as a type of "pollution"

Also, insurance company reports compare the RF radiation issue to asbestos and repeatedly rate cell tower, 5G and RF radiation as "High Risk" and this is why insurance companies [exclude coverage for health damages from the RF radiation](#) as industry standard. You can see that in our own town's insurance policy I'm sure.

I'm truly saddened and sorry we even have to have this town meeting and that I have to state the following, as I hope it will not come to this, but I would like to put the Town of Wallingford, Verizon, VTel and the Swards on public notice that as of the reading of this statement all the residents of my home at 155 Fieldstone Way East Wallingford VT 05742 are in great health, a statement I will have backed up by our physicians in writing, and that if this proposed cell tower is erected and our health situation changes after its erection, we will be forced to take legal action. I encourage all my neighbors listed and who received the 60 day advance notice, who can, to declare the same in writing to Verizon, VTel, the Town of Wallingford, the Seward family and the Utility Commission of Vermont, as if any health problems do befall your family after the erection of this tower, if there is no precedent set or prior proof of health, you will have no recourse.

In conclusion, I hope we can find a way to help our neighbor pay for his property taxes and have a higher quality of life without the erection of a cell tower and all the health risks it brings and maintain the beauty of Wallingford. Thank you.