

## Kim Reed

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**From:** Kim Reed  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 5, 2018 1:41 PM  
**To:** Manougian, Victor; Michael Donovan  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Portsmouth Herald Published Sept 1  
**Attachments:** Letter to the Portsmouth Herald Editor.docx

Please send Article...it was not attached. I need it for my pleadings binder...



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**From:** Gemmett, Robert J (rgemmett) <rgemmett@brockport.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 3, 2018 10:14 AM  
**To:** Kim Reed <KReed@town.rye.nh.us>  
**Cc:** sparkly1123@gmail.com; petercra@ix.netcom.com; wesleypike@gmail.com; jmac12@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Letter to the Portsmouth Herald Published Sept 1

Dear Kim,

This email, including the attached letter published in the *Portsmouth Herald*, is for Bill Epperson, Shawn Crapo and their respective board members. I would appreciate it if you could make certain that they receive it prior to the meeting on Tuesday night. Thank you.

Dear Bill Epperson, Shawn Crapo, and Board Members,

I have said in a previous email to all of you that both the Zoning and Planning Boards have a number of legitimate and legally supportable reasons for denial of Verizon's application. They certainly should not be intimidated by strong-arms tactics of threats to sue should the application be denied. After all, this is such an outrageous, in-your-face proposal with a total disregard for established ordinances that it makes Verizon appear to be totally arrogant and authoritarian in this effort.

Approval would assuredly provide a casebook example of gross capitulation at the expense of the residents of Rye. Not a model of a town that stands for its community members.

Hopefully, the upcoming meeting on Sept. 4, will be arranged so the citizens present have sufficient time to speak their minds about this proposal and not be disenfranchised by Verizon representatives who drone on for 3 ½ hours as they did at an earlier hearing leaving very little time for others to comment. I think you will have to agree that it is now our time to speak and be heard.

Yours sincerely,  
Robert J. Gemmett

# Rye: No cell towers in residential districts

Posted Sep 1, 2018 at 3:01 AM [*Portsmouth Herald*]

Aug. 29 -- To the Editor:

In September, the Zoning and Planning Boards of Rye will decide on the Verizon application to construct a 130-foot cell tower on Brackett Road in a residential district.

Verizon also intends to rent space on the tower to other providers making it a valuable piece of “vertical real estate” and a source of considerable income while disregarding the fundamental change in the zoning character this will cause in the neighborhood.

To achieve its goal, Verizon has submitted an excessive list of 10 variances and use permits, thereby displaying a gross indifference to the value of established ordinances.

The construction of a tall, out-of-place tower with its industrial components, including noise-producing generators, high ambient noise from cooling fans and heavy tree removal would injure private rights by interfering with the use, enjoyment and aesthetics of the surrounding residents.

The presence of a visible cell tower in the vicinity will also negatively affect the neighborhood’s property values. Verizon likes to say there will be no negative impact, citing a property in Rye that is 1,650 feet from an existing cell tower - not a fair comparison to a situation where the tower on the proposed site would be roadside and close to private residences.

Verizon representatives have made assertions about the safety of their towers but the facts are not on their side. A cell tower poses public safety issues caused by portions of the tower falling in the areas within the neighborhood, the tower itself collapsing, as happened in 2014 in North Adams, Massachusetts, or even catching fire, all of which are well documented. A recent study reveals that from 2006 to 2015 there have been 22 cell tower fires or explosions; from 2003 to 2014, there have been 24 cell tower collapses.

Verizon’s indifference to safety matters is also apparent in their attempt to locate the tower within feet of a well-traveled state road, posing a potential hazard to passing vehicles.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 denies all state and local governments consideration of the potential adverse health impacts of RF radiation from cell towers. However, it is telling that the International Association of Fire Fighters has opposed the use of fire stations as sites for cell towers due to health effects of such exposure.

Finally, the denial of the Verizon application would not result in prohibiting telecommunications service within the town since other viable alternatives exist, a number of which are outlined in a recent report ordered by the town.

Over recent months, we have observed the officials of the town of Rye display consistent efforts to accommodate Verizon representatives in their application process with their numerous revisions. Now it is time for the taxpayers and citizens of this community to be represented. It is time for the town officials to do the right thing and deny Verizon's application.

**Robert J. Gemmett**

Rye