

Rogers proposes cell tower for Nobleton

By Angela Gismondi

A cell phone tower is being put up on King Road in Nobleton to improve wireless service for rural residents.

Council was informed about a proposal from Rogers Communications at the committee of the whole meeting on June 23.

LandSquared, on behalf of Rogers Communications, submitted an application to erect a 50-metre steel latticed tri-pole telecommunications tower at 7300 King Road, located at the northeast corner of King Road and the 11th Concession in Nobleton.

The tower is expected to improve coverage and capacity in the rural areas of the township, specifically those surrounding the site.

The proposal includes a fenced compound and equipment shelter occupying a total ground area of about 80 square metres which has been sized for multiple equipment cabinets.

The property, owned by Giuseppe Sinopoli, is 90 acres and currently houses a series of farm buildings and an abandoned dwelling.

The tower location is about 144 metres from King Road and about 223 metres north of the nearest dwelling. The proposed tower site will not impact the agricultural use of the lands.

The approval of telecommunications facilities is under federal jurisdiction and administered by Industry Canada, therefore facilities of this nature are not subject to municipal or provincial bylaws or regulations. As a result, the municipal role in the approval process is constrained.

However, Industry Canada outlines procedures to be followed by the proponent during the approval process, including a requirement for consultation with the local municipality. According to the staff report, the applicant has consulted with the public and has demonstrated conformity with the Township's protocol for establishing telecommunications facilities.

Nobleton Councillor Peter Grandilli was concerned about who the tower would be benefitting.

“By installing this tower at this location, what target of consumers are you aiming to Nobleton or Bolton?” asked Grandilli.

Daniel Gibbons, representing Rogers Communications, explained the signal travels about three kilometers.

“The bulk of the coverage will be delivered along King Road,” explained Gibbons. “We've had reports of low signal strength, dropped calls and very low data in the area. This is intended to address those issues. There are farms and dwellings in the area that require coverage for emergency and non-emergency purposes.”

Council passed the staff recommendation to advise Industry Canada and the applicant that the Township's protocol for establishing telecommunications facilities has been complied with.