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## Fwd: Correspondence to the Board Re: Proposed Rockledge Cell Tower

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**Mindy Jesek** <villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov>  
Reply-To: villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov  
To: Village Board of Trustees <villageboard@nelsonvilleny.gov>

Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 11:50 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lara shihab-eldin**  
Date: Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 11:37 AM  
Subject: Correspondence to the Board Re: Proposed Rockledge Cell Tower  
To: <villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov>

Dear Nelsonville Board,

I am writing to ask you to not to settle, per the per the agreement proposed by SMSA Limited Partnership and Homeland Towers. I appreciate all the hard work you have put into serving the village of Nelsonville on this issue and others, and I understand that it may seem like you have exhausted all options, but I urge you to reconsider for the following reasons:

1- In roughly a week since the public meeting and workshop, our community has raised \$30,000 dollars to support fighting this case, during a very busy time for residents, just after the new year. Just think what we may be able to raise and accomplish w/ more time.

2-As more surrounding residents become aware of the settlement and the impact of the tower, from views, adjacent environmental destruction, inherent re-zoning, and the potential destruction of neighboring properties bedrock and water supplies, the long-term costs and far-reaching impact that the village of Nelsonville and its residents will face is substantial.

3- The precedent this settlement will set for the village, our town, our SASS region (Scenic Area of Statewide Significance), and on a national level is substantial. Once one property in this residential neighborhood is developed as 'industrial', other properties will be more likely to develop similarly. Property values will drop, local businesses will most likely suffer losses, and a local school will likely suffer losses.

4-From my vantage point as both a design & construction professional and as a volunteer on a local planning board, I have seen substantial deviation during construction and development, from site plans presented as part of the approval process. This speaks to the real lack of accountability and control over how this site may be developed if it is owned by the cell-tower company. I was not satisfied by the insurance company's lawyer dismissal of these concerns, raised at the public meeting.

Please take this case to summary judgement because the village of Nelsonville will likely have more leverage over the tower company if this process is prolonged, and because a substantial segment of the community you work so hard to represent has pledged to raise money, raise awareness and work with you.

There is always the chance that the longer this case takes, the issue will be resolved in a different direction than the building of a cell-tower overlooking our cemetery. Changing technologies, national legal decisions, and even cost considerations may only create a different outcome if the case is NOT settled.

If the case is settled, our community loses all leverage, and it loses a big part of it's history, character and environment. This community will be an example of what happens when we stop fighting entrenched special interests at the highest levels.

I don't think it is a huge stretch to contextualize this case within the Hudson Valley's history of local residents and groups standing up to out-of-scale and inappropriate industrial development that destroys local communities environments. In the tradition of Scenic Hudson's formation to save Storm King Mountain, we can work together to protect our local environments, or we can feel disempowered. Honoring

the memory of Pete Seeger, who dedicated his voice to protecting the Hudson River, it's ecology and it's communities, leading to the Clean Water Act of 1972, on the federal level, we can do every little thing we can as individuals and as a community, before letting companies that have no regard for our community destroy this environment.\*

Thank you for considering our community feedback,

Lara Shihab-Eldin,

Philipstown & Cold Spring Village Resident,

Living close to Nelsonville & its natural resources

\*<http://www.hvmag.com/Hudson-Valley-Magazine/October-2013/Scenic-Hudsons-50th-Anniversary-A-History-and-the-17-Year-Battle-to-Preserve-Storm-King-Mountain/>

\*<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/29/nyregion/the-man-up-the-hill-in-his-log-cabin-who-sang-and-sailed-to-save-his-river.html>

\*<https://www.riverkeeper.org/blogs/the-watchdog/pete-seeger-an-appreciation/>

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Mindy Jesek  
Village Clerk / Treasurer