



## COUNTY OF AMHERST



### Public Information Officer

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### Public Service Announcement

July 22, 2020

### Proposed Elon Cell Tower Fails

At their July 21 meeting, the Board of Supervisors denied Verizon's request to construct a cell tower in the Elon area. Verizon applied for a special exception in January 2020 and their application was reviewed by the Planning Commission in June 2020, before it was sent to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation to deny the exception.

The proposed tower would have been a 195 foot monopole with equipment cabinets at the base. Public hearings were held by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors and numerous citizens expressed their concerns about the tower impacting the view to the Tobacco Row Mountains.

While the Board is not opposed to a wireless tower, they found the impact of a tower at this location would impair the view of High Peak Mountain from Route 130. The route is one of Virginia's Scenic Byways and an important tourist route in our area. Preserving the natural features of Amherst County and expanding natural tourism opportunities are important parts of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at [jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com](mailto:jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com) or (434)-946-9400.