



December 12, 2011

Darrell Joudrey
Planner, Community Development
Halifax Regional Municipality

Dear Mr. Joudrey:

**Re: Case number 16620 Telecommunications Tower, East Lawrencetown – 17
November 2011 public meeting follow-up**

EastLink is writing to address comments made by Mr. Nico Manos and Mr. Scotty Sherin at a 17 November 2011 public meeting, which was held to consider EastLink's proposed alternative site for our telecommunications tower in East Lawrencetown.

EastLink below addresses the specific comments, but we first note that EastLink takes great exception to the accusations made by Mr. Manos and Mr. Sherin. Despite their accusations that EastLink had manipulated photo renderings to mislead the community of East Lawrencetown, neither Mr. Manos or Sherin offered any basis for their claims and neither produced credentials indicating they were capable of accurately assessing EastLink's submitted photos.

EastLink would like to be clear that we take pride in communicating openly and honestly with the communities in which we plan to build wireless infrastructure. We are confident that the details included in this letter will reassure the community of East Lawrencetown that we are committed to providing accurate information with each and every one of our telecommunications tower applications, including our East Lawrencetown application.

Quality photos

In his comments, Mr. Manos claimed, "Renderings have all been intentionally manipulated to show you what EastLink wants you to see." EastLink considers this to be a serious accusation and categorically disputes Mr. Manos' claim. Mr. Manos offered no basis at all for his accusation and has produced no credentials whatsoever that would enable him to assess EastLink's photo renderings, making his attack on EastLink's reputation as an honest partner inappropriate.

EastLink notes that we have agreed to locate our tower on the Crowell Road site, as an alternative to our originally proposed site, at the suggestion of members of the East Lawrencetown community on Leslie Road. The photo renderings we submitted with our application for this alternative site were prepared by engineering consultant Genivar, a reputable firm relied on widely in the telecommunications, renewable energy and infrastructure development sectors.

In response to Mr. Manos' accusations, Genivar has informed us that to create its photo renderings a surveyor went onsite in East Lawrencetown, took multiple photos, selected appropriate vantage points and then used graduated pole locations to introduce perspective into its renderings. This is the standard practice for producing photo renderings of proposed telecommunications towers. Genivar's explanation is attached to this letter; it certifies that Genivar's photo renderings accurately capture how the tower would appear to the community of East Lawrencetown.

Vantage Points

Mr. Manos also accused EastLink of choosing the "most forgiving angles possible" and said that the photo renderings "do not accurately portray how this tower will be viewed by the surrounding area." Manos distributed several pictures he had produced himself and that he described as "to scale."

Mr. Manos - described as a professional surfer in an 18 November 2011 Chronicle Herald article - did not provide any details on how he had produced his pictures. Indeed, HRM staff has directed Mr. Manos to have an engineer attest to the accuracy of his pictures before staff can accept them. As Mr. Manos has not yet done so, neither EastLink nor HRM staff has access to the pictures upon which Mr. Manos based his accusations.

While we do not have access to Mr. Manos' self-produced pictures, EastLink has nevertheless engaged Genivar to produce photo renderings from the vantage points Mr. Manos discussed at the 17 November public meeting. Specifically, Genivar has produced one rendering looking back at the community from the beach, as suggested by Mr. Manos, and has produced one rendering that attempts to re-create the photo from the cover of the "doers and dreamers" brochure referenced during the public meeting. We have attached these Genivar-produced photo renderings to this letter to provide the community of East Lawrencetown with accurate photos from these vantage points.

It is clear from these new photos that EastLink had not selected only the most flattering vantage points for our originally submitted photos. Indeed, the telecommunications tower is barely visible in the new rendering looking inland from the beach.

Wide angle and NTS

Further to Mr. Manos' comments, Mr. Sherin accused EastLink of using "wide angle distortion" to "manipulate photos" so that "images in the background appear abnormally small." EastLink notes that Mr. Sherin described himself as a professional photographer, not as an engineer. Therefore, Mr. Sherin does not have the certification necessary to assess EastLink's photo renderings.

For its part, Genivar has confirmed that it did not use "wide angle distortion" and did not use a wide angle lens in producing its photo renderings. Genivar also explained that what Mr. Sherin was likely attempting to describe in his comments is actually called "forced perspective," which is a technique largely used in art and architecture. In the attached letter, and as summarized above, Genivar has described the techniques it used to produce EastLink's photo renderings. EastLink expects Genivar's explanation will assure the community of East Lawrencetown that the photos we submitted accurately reflect our proposed tower in context.

Finally, Mr. Sherin pointed out that the “NTS” on EastLink’s photo renderings stands for “not to scale.” Genivar has clarified that it would be inappropriate to produce scaled photo renderings because photo renderings are intended to show what the tower would actually look like from a particular vantage point, accounting for perspective. Creating this real-life view requires a vanishing point and, therefore, cannot be to scale. Scaled photos are only useful when showing, for example, an overall site view similar to a site plan or map.

Considering Genivar’s explanation of the techniques used to produce its photos and the above clarification regarding scaled photo renderings, EastLink remains confident that the renderings we submitted reflect, as accurately as possible, what our proposed tower would look like in context in East Lawrencetown.

EastLink as a community partner

As noted above, EastLink takes great exception to Mr. Manos and Sherin’s accusations and reiterates that we take pride in always communicating honestly with the communities we encounter as we build out our wireless network. We trust that this letter and attachments will reassure the community of East Lawrencetown that the information we have presented is accurate and representational. We look forward to providing quality wireless coverage in East Lawrencetown.

Should you have any questions in relation to this matter we would be pleased to address them.

Respectfully,



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