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**TOWN OF CHESTER**  
**PLANNING BOARD REVIEW**

**Project Name:** ARX Wireless

**Project Location:** Terminus of Poplar Drive  
SBL: 8-1-21

**Reviewed by:** Kristen O'Donnell 

**Date of Review:** October 4, 2022

**Plans Reviewed:** Site Plans last revised 6/17/2022 prepared by Tectonic, Photographic Simulation Package prepared by Virtual Site Simulations, LLC, undated.

**Project Summary:** The application is for construction of a 154-foot (150-foot tower plus 4-foot antenna) wireless telecommunications tower to be located within 60-foot by 60-foot fenced enclosure. The project site is a 4.6 acre, town-owned, vacant property at the terminus of Poplar Drive in the SR-2 Zoning District and the Ridge Preservation Overlay District. For this application, I have tasked with review and comments on the visual aspect of the project only.

**Comments:**

1. A visual analysis was completed which included a balloon test that was held on July 27, 2022. The analysis includes photos of a balloon, presumably representing the proposed height of the tower, from 35 different vantage points with two tower design options superimposed on the photos where visibility is likely. The analysis shows that the tower will be visible from residential properties along Poplar Drive and surrounding roads as well as other roads including Sugar Loaf Mountain Road and Laroe Road.

Based on observations, while many of these roads are characterized by views of Goose Pond Mountain and other ridgelines, the viewshed is also dotted with other infrastructure including an electrical transmission line that runs east of the site with several towers, and a large tower located south of the site in Monroe.

The "mono-pine" tower proposes fake evergreen branches intended to disguise or blend the tower into existing vegetation. Based on the simulations provided, it is clear the tower will be considerably taller than surrounding vegetation. Further, due to the nature of the tower design with the antennas extending outward from the very top of the tower, it is difficult for the tower to create a conical or "tree like" shape. While the greenery appears to disguise

the tower from long distance, as distance increases visibility is naturally reduced with any tower design option.

It is unclear from the submitted materials what specific colors will be used on the monopole. The monopole structure appears gray in color in the visual simulation. It may be possible for this tower to blend a bit better into the sky if the color was a lighter, matte color. We have also seen examples of towers that are one color where the tower is within the tree line to blend in with vegetation, and another color above the tree line to blend into the sky.

2. The fence detail does not show any privacy slats in the proposed fence and there is no color, gauge, or vinyl coating proposed for the chain link fabric. This additional information should be provided and the applicant should consider slats to block visibility into the enclosure.
3. No lighting is shown on the Site Plan. The applicant should confirm no lighting will be located on the site. If lighting is required, it should be shown on the plan with a detail as required by the Town Code.

This concludes our comments at this time. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further please contact our office.