



January 12, 2018

Zoning Board of Appeals
Planning Board, Village of Nelsonville
RE: Homeland Towers Application for a 110' Tower facility at Rockledge Rd

To Chairman Rice and members of the Zoning and Planning Boards:

As a resident of Cold Spring and as a Registered Landscape Architect, I am writing in opposition to the proposed cell tower at the Rockledge Site. I have been practicing in the field of Landscape Architecture for over 15 years. I am the principal Landscape Architect and co-owner of The Figure Ground Studio Architecture and Landscape Architecture, PLLC in Cold Spring, NY.

In my professional opinion, the proposed cell tower on Rockledge will most definitely have a significant adverse aesthetic impact on the Cemetery, which is a significant contributor to the Rural Cemetery Movement. Namely, the proposed tower would adversely affect the elegant rural cemetery landscape and the natural woodland that it nestles into as designed by Mead and Woodward.

I am writing to concur with my colleague Liz Campbell Kelly's assessment of the importance of the Cemetery from an aesthetically and historically. The importance of Downing and his colleagues Mead and Woodward to the history of Landscape Architecture must not be underestimated. It is a history which must be celebrated precisely because it is relatively unknown here in the Hudson Valley. This region is truly the birthplace of Landscape Architecture, and it is vital that we preserve its artifacts, including the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Mead and Woodward took great pains to preserve naturalistic settings and layouts. I believe that the proposed cell tower placement, and the horticulturally inappropriate "stealth pine" are significantly detrimental to the design and impairs the character of the Cold Spring Cemetery, thereby reducing public enjoyment of the Cemetery and its environs in perpetuity.

While I disagree with his conclusions, I agree with Mr. Treldsdad that there are "few, if any, comparable modern visual intrusions within the surrounding study area." The Cold Spring Cemetery and its environs are a true and rare modern treasure ~ an untrammelled landscape. The proposed cell tower will forever adversely affect the aesthetic character of the Cemetery.

Both Mr. Allen and Ms. Mancuso admit that the proposed cell tower would have an effect on the integrity of the Cold Spring Cemetery. They may have been unaware of its historical significance, thereby minimizing the importance of this effect. Also, while addressing the views of the tower from its immediate environs, they neglected to take into account that the Cemetery sits within a Scenic Area of Statewide Significance. The proposed "stealth pine" will adversely affect not only the public enjoyment of the Cold Spring Cemetery itself, it will reduce public enjoyment of the historically significant Hudson River Valley for visitors as far away as Storm King Mountain.

As a Landscape Architect, I urge you to recognize the adverse aesthetic impact that the proposed cell tower (and "stealth pine") will have on the Cold Spring Cemetery and its surrounding environment and reject the application for the proposed tower siting.

Sincerely,

Erin Muir
Landscape Architect
The Figure Ground Studio Architecture and Landscape Architecture, PLLC
Cold Spring, NY