



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

**Planning Department
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Ricardo M. Sousa, Esq. / Agent; Paul Nonni, Senior Building Inspector

FROM: Lori Massa, Planner

DATE: 17 January 2008

SUBJECT: 119 College Minor Revision Request – ZBA 2000-02-MR-01-08

Applicant Sprint Broadband Company, LLC and Owner Beacon Place Condominium Trust are requesting a Minor Revision to the Special Permit #2000-02. The original special permit allowed the applicant to install ten panel antennas total, mounted in three arrays on top of the building. The accessory wire connections would run down the rear of the building to the equipment room in the basement.

The present application seeks to:

1. Replace two IDEN antennas with two WIMAX antennas and add one WIMAX antenna between existing panels in the rear of the property;
2. Add a WIMAX GPS antenna on the rooftop;
3. Add one new equipment cabinet in the existing equipment room in the basement.

These revisions are shown on plans stamped in the City Clerk's Office on January 17, 2008. The Applicant is requesting these changes to upgrade the wireless communication technology.

The proposed revisions to Special Permit #2000-02 are *de minimis* and consist of only minor details. The changes are in line with the original special permit and will not be noticeable from the street level. The new antennas will be of similar size and appearance to the existing antennas and will have the same sheathing material as the current antennas. The new lines of coax cable will be concealed in the existing cable tray. The cabinet is of similar size and appearance to the existing cabinets and is located inside of the building.

Based on the preceding, Planning Staff deems the proposed revisions as minor. Planning Staff finds that the changes are substantially consistent with the special permit approval and do not constitute a revision requiring new notice and approval.

The applicant should, however, address condition 2 of the original special permit. Condition 2 states “To reduce the visibility of the antenna arrays from the street, the Applicant agrees to paint the antenna arrays to match the building. Final paint color is subject to planning staff review and approval and shall be subject to change if it does not adequately match the building.” The current false brick sheathing material does not match the existing brick façade. The applicant shall paint the grout a darker color to match the grout and concrete bands on the building and paint the false brick varying darker colors to match the existing brick. Planning Staff are available to assist in selecting paint colors.