



Zoners to continue hearings on cell tower



A zoning hearing in Amity Township on a plan to put a cellular tower at 152 Hill Road won't conclude until at least next month.

After hearing three hours of testimony and questions from several residents who oppose the tower, the zoning hearing board on Monday recessed the hearing until Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.

Liberty Towers LLC of Washington, D.C., is seeking a special exception, which is required for the proposed 100-foot Sprint Communications pole since it is proposed for a medium-density residential zone.

The applicant also needs a variance from an ordinance that would require the tower to be set back 203 feet from a residence. Plans call for erecting the tower just 135 feet from the nearest home.

Radio frequency engineer Paul Dugan of Millennium Engineers testified the tower is needed, telling the board, "There are service gaps in Amity Gardens."

Stacey Gunning of 135 Slate Run Road wanted to know why the cellular antenna could not be attached to water towers one mile from the proposed site.

"The elevations are close," she noted.

"At the proposed location, you are sufficiently above the tree line and at the water towers you are below and it wouldn't be as effective," Dugan said.

- By Keith Smoker