

## Cell Tower Alternatives

Are there alternatives to the 190' tall cell tower proposed below Bald Rock in Lincolnville? According to an expert in wireless communications, the answer is "a resounding yes." A group of Lincolnville residents recently hired engineer David Maxson to review the proposed tower and the town's ordinances. His report is astounding.

Gridcom/Unicel previously told the town that we need their tower for better wireless coverage along Route 1 south of Lincolnville Beach. They claimed there are no alternatives. But it appears they have not proven this. According to Maxson's report, alternatives do exist.

In summary, quoted from the report:

1. "In scenic areas, DAS [an alternative technology] is a means of eliminating the scourge of tall towers...The Route 1 corridor that is the subject of Unicel's desire to improve service is quite possibly an ideal location for a DAS solution." DAS is used successfully elsewhere, including California's scenic coastline and Hilton Head South Carolina.
2. "In lieu of a DAS, two or three shorter, sleeker poles [60-90' tall] could be placed along Route 1 in areas where there is already compatible development...When sensibly placed, short monopoles are proportional and compatible with the surrounding land uses." Cape Cod encourages smart wireless development in this very manner.
3. Although the proposed tower "is not necessary," it could be relocated "to get it out of the most scenic view from Bald Rock."
4. "...there are many small adjustments that could be made to the site design that would minimize impact on the viewshed." They are listed in the report.

Ultimately, we can improve cell phone coverage AND protect our most scenic views.