

Kent's Ledge Revisited

By Leslie Staudinger

One sunshiny September day in 1993, two students discovered that the trail up Kent's Ledge was marked with posts and orange flags all the way up to the peak. Within days, some anonymous hiker had removed all traces of the stakes, hammering them into the ground and scattering leaves over the post holes. That was the end of the easy part.

The rest of story of the fight to save Kent's Ledge is simple on the surface. We organized people, circulated petitions, wrote letters to the editor, and worked on educating people on the issue. Standard stuff, with enough plot twists and weirdness to keep the process enticing. We were waiting for a response to the petitions when we heard from a VLS grad whose firm is in the business. The company proposing the tower had been bought by Nynex. Everything was on hold. We never got a response to the petition, and the whole issue just went away.

Word started circulating around town, a few weeks ago, that Nynex had called the Town offices and the Act 250 district commission asking about the process for building a tower on Kent's Ledge. A Valley News article January 22nd confirmed the story. So, here we go again.

In 1993 Con-Tel Cellular approached the town's Prudential Committee, which owns about 300 acres on Kent's Kedge, about building a cellular telephone tower on the peak and improving the trail as an access road to the tower. We learned this through calls to folks on the Board of Selectmen and Planning Commission we knew were friendly to planning and environmental issues. There was no story in the paper. A hotly contested broadcast tower was making news in Randolph Center, not only was it built, but it ended up with a blinking red light on top.

At the same time as the Kent's Ledge tower was proposed, a competing company, Atlantic Cellular, was applying for an Act 250 permit to erect a cellular telephone tower on Russ Hill (Gee Hill Road). The Act 250 permit was approved, and the tower was built, despite

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