Chappy Wireless Committee packet Submitted est MVC public hearing April 7, 2016



_		

Action

2010

Wireless Committee made up of two town employees meet with

David Maxson to determine a way to get cell coverage for Katama and Chappaquiddick.

Apr-11

David Maxson submits report outlining path to coverage for Katama and Chappy.

4/9/2011

Michael Doiron and Dan Bilezikian, Site Acquisition Specialist of SAI Communications gives an

RF Analysis based on topography to Georgiana.

4/12/2011

Town Meetiing approves Zoning by law changes for Cell Towers.

Allows over height cell towers only with special permit.

Applicant must show there is no alternative along with other requirements.

Apr-August 2011 Maxson and Georgiana work on RFP for Katama and identify town lots on Chappy

to use for tower.

Sept? 2011

Georgiana Meets with Planning Board to report on progress and intent to use Chappy town property

to lease for 150 ft. cell tower.

Chappy residents ask selectmen to establish committee that includes Chappy residents to

determine best cell system for Chappy.

30-Sep-11

Chappy Wireless committee is established. Consultant Maxson issues update summarizing

Chappy issues and his recommendations.

27-Oct-11

Chappy Wireless Committee meets and requests meeting with consultant for Nov. 4, 2011 Committee approves mission statements as follows: "Achieve mobile service in neighborhoods and beaches covering 95% of Chappaquiddick area with a "Good" signal or better.

Implement coverage by Memorial Day 2012. In the process, the committee shall look at the public and private sectors including, but not limited to: aesthetics, public safety, and environmental including noise. Consideration by the committee shall not be iinfluenced by any revenue

potential to the Town."

4-Nov-11

Committee meets with consultant, gets up to speed on all the issues.

Asks consultant for a mock up of a possible DAS system that would meet the needs of Chappy.

Committee agrees to meet with Tim Carroll, Chilmark Town Administrator

to learn about Chilmark's DAS system.

18-Nov-11

Committee receives consultant's report about DAS.

2-Dec-11

Committee meets with Tim Carroll. Agrees DAS is the best system for Chappy.

Consultant is asked to write up a RFP to seek a DAS developer who would build the system and

secure a cell provider to increase coverage for Chappaquiddick.

Dec-11

Committee meets to review the town properties to see if any would be suitable for a DAS hub. Committee agrees the basement or attic of the firestation would provide the least degradation of Chappy's environment and the best incentive for a developer who would be spared the expense of building for the HUB. No exterior alterations except exterior stairway

One of the two existing Edgartown towers could also be used as could the silo at Katama.

Jan-12

Committee unanimously agrees to recommend to the Selectmen that a DAS RFP be issued. The committee agrees to seek town meeting approval of the use of the firestation for the DAS hub. The committee agrees that no alteratons to the exterior of the Firehouse, other than an exterior

stairway would be allowed.

1-Feb

RFP is issued, deadline passes without proposal. Grain Communications belatedly declares interest and committee agrees to re-issue RFP. Bilezikian suggests we meet with him about alternatives to DAS.

Meeting is scheduled, Bilezikian cancels. Bilezikian submits pictures of towers that look like

huge trees and flagpoles.

Apr-12	RFP is re-issued. Grain Communication submits its proposal and is approved by the Selectmen. Town Meeting approval of the use of the firestation is secured.
2012	Grain Communication reports they are unable to secure a Cell Provider to use their proposed system.
28-Jan-13	Committee sends letters to Senators and Reps, follows up with no success.
Mar -Jun 2013	Grain gives up trying to find Cell provider.
21-Jun-13	Committee meets with Brian Savva who suggests some people to contact.
MID 2013	Several people from Crown Castle and American Tower indicate interest and ask for a re-issue of the RFP.
1-Sep-13	Georgiana announces public hearing to gage Chappy's interest in Cell Tower.
1-Sep-13	Committee meets, discusses public hearing to gage Chappy's interest in Cell Tower. Committee reaffirms that DAS is best system for Chappy, Cell tower would be divisive. Committee sees little support for a tower on Chappy and suggests Selectmen hold hearing if they want.
27-Sep-13	Hearing is cancelled.
25-Oct-13	Committee re-issues RFP. Georgiana sends 30 copies to various parties.
6-Jan-14	Georgiana announces that the town had received no responses for the RFP
24-Feb-14	Committee meets, agrees it needs help in contacting cell providers to determine why there were no responses to the RFPin fact no feed back from any of the 30 who were contacted. Alternatives to cell providers would be investigated.



TOWN OF EDGARTOWN OFFICE OF SELECTMEN 70 MAIN STREET, P. D. BOX 515B EDBARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02539-5158

TELEPHONE (508) 627-6180

FAX (508) 627-6123

January 28, 2013

State Senator Daniel A. Wolf State House – Room 511B Boston, MA 02133

RE: Wireless Service for Chappaquiddick, Edgartown, MA

Dear Senator Wolf:

The Town of Edgartown is working hard to enable all residents in all areas of town to have access to cell phone service. We need your help to motivate the cellular service providers to join our planned facility and bring coverage to Chappaquiddick Island ("Chappy"). The Selectmen, working through its Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee, have identified Chappy as a large area of town not covered by cell service and have developed a plan to gain coverage there. Chappy hosts 500 residential units whose summertime population expands to 4,000, plus 3,000 daytrippers to Chappy's unspoiled beaches. Additionally fishermen, scallopers, boaters and the working trades need coverage.

The Town has made space available in a municipal firehouse on Chappy where wireless carriers may install their cellular base stations. To avoid spoiling the historic, rural, island character of Chappy with a massive cell tower, the Town will allow service providers to install antennas on utility poles strategically placed around Chappy. They would connect the antennas to the base station in the firehouse via fiber optic cables run on the utility lines. This approach is called a Distributed Antenna System ("DAS"). It is a commonly used way to provide wireless service in sensitive areas.

The town has selected a developer who is willing to build and operate the low impact DAS system. DAS developers invest in DAS as "neutral hosts" who invite all wireless carriers to share the DAS network. This reduces the cost borne by each individual wireless carrier.

Unfortunately, our developer has been unable to obtain a commitment from even one service provider to bring coverage to Chappaquiddick. Rural and underserved areas tend to get overlooked by wireless carriers because of the cost of adding coverage. This is not only a quality of life issue for the many Chappy residents and guests who seek the conveniences of having cellular service, but it is also a life-safety issue when the island is isolated by bad weather and the land lines fail.

As you know, the FCC is the only regulator of cell phone service and the Congress has chosen to let the advancement of cell phone coverage follow market forces. Edgartown cannot compel service providers to provide coverage, but we would like to make them an offer they can't refuse.

We need your help in identifying people within the cellular companies who are high level decision makers with whom we can discuss mutual goals. Once the issues are identified, we are confident of a solution to overcome the obstacles to coverage.

Additionally, we know that the State and Federal Government is interested in moving the entire United States into the 21st century and has on many occasions provided funds to communities to do so. The CDC reports that there are now more households in the USA with no telephone land line than there are households with no cellular subscriptions. As landline use has been decreasing and the landline phone companies are investing less and less in their infrastructure, the importance of cellular service continues to grow. To keep this large area of Edgartown safe and economically viable, cellular service on Chappy is essential. In addition to seeking your guidance on speaking with decision makers of the service providers, the Town is hoping your office can help identify funds that might be available to assist us with this project to quickly obtain cellular telephone coverage for our entire area, especially on Chappaquiddick.

Our Planning Board assistant, Georgiana Greenough, will be contacting you and will be available for discussion of this important issue. Please contact her at (508) 627-6170.

Sincerely yours,	
Arthur Smadbeck	
Margaret Serpa	
Michael Donaroma	

EDGARTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date: Feb. 28, 2014

From: Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee

To: Edgartown Board of Selectmen

RE: Cell service on Chappaquiddick.

The Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee has been working since the fall of 2011 to get a cell service provider to expand its coverage on Chappaquiddick. The committee determined that the best system for Chappy would be a DAS (Distributed Antenna System) rather than one or two 150 foot towers.

In the following report you can see the reasons for this as presented by the town's consultant. You can see what the committee has done to secure a developer for such a system so far.

Please find attached:

Summary and current action plan.

Timeline showing the progress so far.

Isotrope's report of September 30, 2011 updating issues concerning Chappaquiddick Including: Maps showing town properties suitable by size for a wireless facility with expected cell coverage based on topographical analysis.

Questions posed to consultant for meeting of November 4, 2011.

Isotrope's report of November 18, 2011 outlining a proposal for a DAS with comparisons with an over height tower.

Zoning bylaw showing requirements for special permit for over height tower.

Recommendation to Selectmen of January 2012 to issue RFP for DAS on Chappy.

Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee Report to Selectmen, Feb, 2014

Summary

The Chappy Wireless Committee, after consulting with the town's Wireless consultant, David Maxson, of Isotrope Wireless, determined a DAS would be the best for expanded cell coverage on Chappaquiddick. With the assistance of Mr. Maxson an RFP was prepared and issued to achieve the goal of 95% coverage of the island with least possible damage to the natural and ascetic environment unique to Chappy and enjoyed by all of Edgartown.

Grain Communication, a tower developer together with Broadband Service Group, proposed a system which would meet the requirements of the RFP and their proposal was accepted by the town. Principles at Grain Communication were unable to get any cell provider to sign on to use the proposed system. Pressed as to why, and how the requirements could be adjusted, Grain responded that they were unable to get a meeting with anyone from the cell providers to talk about what incentives would be required.

After a year, Grain and town agreed to discontinue the effort and a re-issue of the RFP was commenced. By this time, the committee had learned of interest from some other DAS developers and it was hoped they would respond if the RFP were re-issued. Our assistant, Georgiana, reports that 30 copies were forwarded to potential developers, but none acknowledged receipt nor responded with any hint of why they assumedly were uninterested.

The committee finds it incomprehensible that up to this time we have been unable to get a meeting with a cell provider to determine any of the following: Are they aware that the Town of Edgartown is interested in getting better cell coverage on Chappaquiddick? Are they aware of the RFP for a DAS system on Chappy? If they are aware of the DAS RFP but not interested, what is the reason they are not interested? Is there some change in the RFP that could be made to get the cell provider interested in signing on to a DAS system? Are they aware that besides the offer of housing for their equipment, use of fiber optic cable already installed across the harbor is available?

The committee has agreed that Georgiana's work load is such that expecting her to follow up on these inquiries shouldn't be expected. A subcommittee of Will Geresy, Fran Clay and Bob Clay will work with Georgiana to get answers to these questions. They will contact Brian Savva and consider using a consultant to move the process forward.

In addition, other members of the committee are researching new alternatives which are developing which may allow expanded cell coverage without requiring further investment by cell providers. Rather than giving away the use of town property to cell providers, could funds raised from the sale of these properties be used to develop a DAS that would be attractive to a cell provider? Will reception from the new Katama Silo facility decrease the cost of the requirements on Chappy? Finally, as the community moves to get Comcast services on Chappy, committee members are hopeful Comcast's DAS division may have some interest in helping to get cell coverage on Chappy. The committee will initiate talks with Comcast as the plans for Comcast on Chappy firm up.

The committee agrees that the island of MV, Edgartown and Chappaquiddick are tourist destinations, and as such, we need to maintain the vision which differentiates us from the cape. We already limit fast food franchises and regulate the building codes to comply with that vision.

The DAS is a 21st century solution as compared to a tower. Five to eight telephone pole sized antennae would cover the entire island of Chappy. The DAS has the capacity to carry more data and is expandable. The Fire station would house the electronic hotel. NSTAR has already installed the fiber optic cable to integrate the system. The most important feature is that there is universal approval of the DAS solution on Chappy- no discontent for its implementation.

It will require the active leadership of the selectmen to get the project up and running. The committee would be glad to assist the Selectmen in a more active fashion to fast track the process. The DAS on Chappy and the hidden antenna in Katama will be a model for Edgartown and the rest of the island.

List of Contacts made in the Past - email from Bob Gurnitz

Dear Jonathon,

The prior committee worked very hard on what you proposed. See for example Roger's timeline for 28 January 2013. Georgiana (Town Rep. to the Committee) and others worked very hard on this on behalf of the Town. I personally spent many hours contacting the following:

Email to Sen.

Kerry

Email to Chair Board

Opencape

Emails to OpenCape CEO

Email to BTOP

Email to Sec'y of

Commerce

Email to Office of General Council, Commerce

Emails and phone call to MA Agency responsible for Open Cape

Email to NTIA (returned)

Email

Dr. Peter

to

Ubertaccio

Member BOD OpenCape

Fax to Sen. Kerry

Fax to Scottt

Brown

Fax to Deval

Patrick

Fax to Rep.

Keating

Fax to Sen. Wolf

Fax to Rep.

Madden

Email to Michael Scott Lead Counsel and Director

Wayne Ritchie, NTIA

DOC DOCOIG 12-08-0095 pin 7C6B

AMeacham@ntia.doc.gov

Aimee Meacham

Director, Program Services

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

(NTIA)

U.S. Department of Commerce

Jack Richard jack_richard@scottbrown.senate.gov

We got absolutely no where.

Best regards

Bob



Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee Town of Edgartown, Massachusetts

March 21, 2014

The Town of Edgartown is interested in a wireless communication developer to construct and operate a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) or equivalent technology that will be made available to personal wireless service carriers to provide both voice and data service to at least 95% of the residents of Chappaquiddick Island.

It has been estimated that the construction of 5 nodes would provide coverage to approximately 95% of the island.

The Town is interested in a proposal that would define all costs and timelines for construction of the above described system. Interested parties should plan to conduct site visits at their earliest convenience with the assistance of town personnel.

The Town is not prioritizing income to the Town, but they are prioritizing the health, welfare, safety and convenience to the residents, their guests, tenants and the considerable workforce.

The Town Planning Board will assist the applicant in the permitting process.

The Town encourages, but does not require, the developer to make efficient use of town-owned real estate for the placement of the DAS Hub facilities.

To achieve maximum coverage on Chappaquiddick, with the least amount of environmental damage to the island's well preserved natural vistas; a DAS has been determined to be the best way to overcome topographical issues.

Chappaguiddick Island profile

Martha's Vineyard is a high profile (politicians, professionals, actors, writers, etc.) destination and Chappaquiddick Island is included in that draw.

Chappaquiddick is a separate island located within the Town of Edgartown. It is a residential neighborhood zoned for minimum 3-acre lots. There are many pre-existing smaller lots. Approximately 85% of all dwellings on Chappaquiddick are used seasonally and because many are rented, an estimated 6,400 individuals are housed over a typical year. Many tradesmen, fishermen, construction workers, landscapers and other commercial services workers, as well as safety and emergency service workers go to Chappaquiddick daily to serve the affluent seasonal homeowners. Verizon who supplies landlines is learning that cell phone use is far more the standard than landlines. Because of the typography of the island, which includes the highest elevation in all of Edgartown, 75% of the houses and 80% of the roads of Chappaquiddick are blocked from the wireless signals available from the North Street tower. Additionally the popular beaches and hiking trails stretching from Wasque in the south to the Cape Pogue lighthouse in the north are also out of range from existing signals.

Fiber optics have recently been installed under the channel (between Edgartown and Chappaquiddick) by NSTAR who currently have sub-leases or agreements with Verizon and Comcast.

Existing Wireless Facilities in Edgartown

There are currently two towers located in the Town of Edgartown. The 180' high tower located on Pennywise Path is owned by Verizon who uses it to microwave signals to Nantucket. The North Street tower is 160' high, and owned by American Tower who leases to the following: New Cingular Wireless (AT&T); Verizon, Sprint/Nextel; T-mobile; Homeland Security and Open Cape Corp.

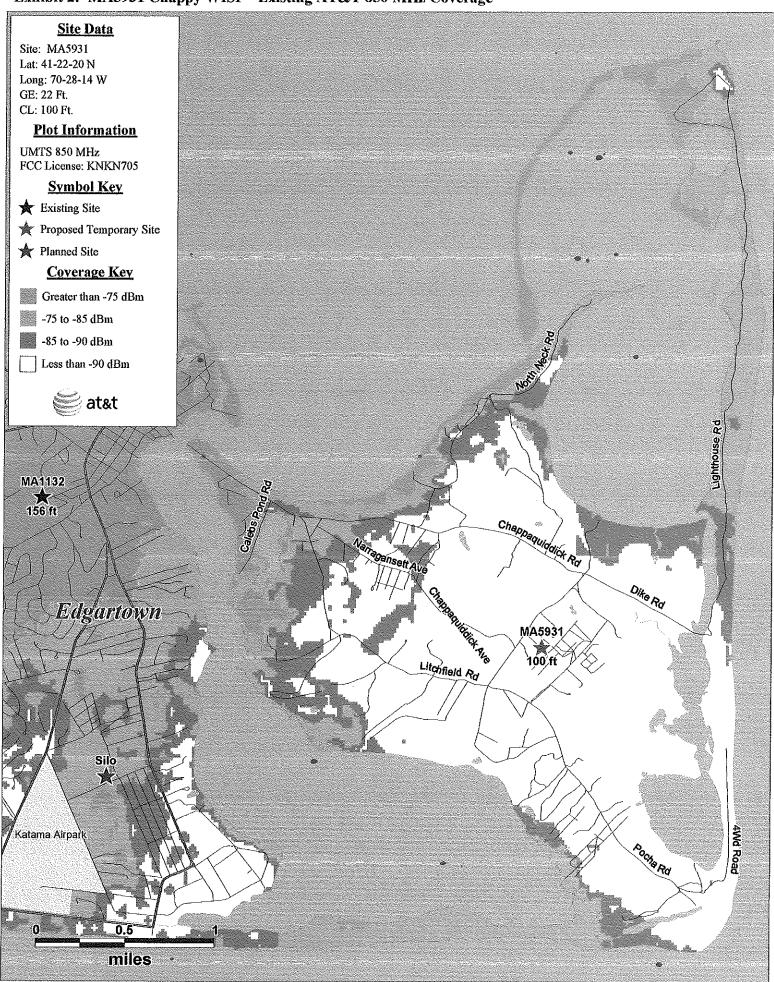
Edgartown is trying to gauge and solicit vendor interest before proceeding with an RFP. We would appreciate your input by 4/15/2014.

For further information, please contact:

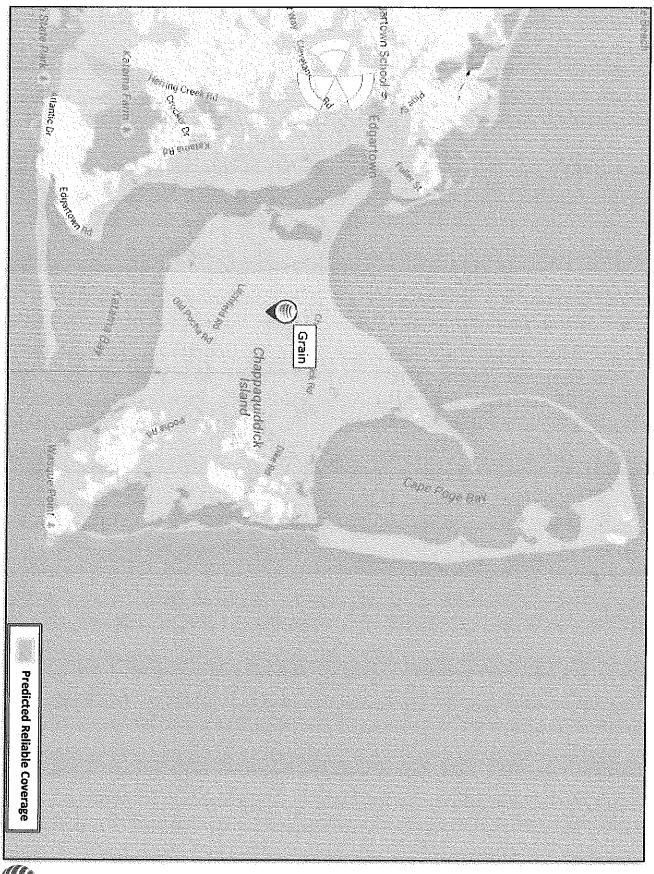
Georgiana Greenough
Assistant to the Planning Board and Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee
Town of Edgartown, Massachusetts
70 Main Street
P.O. Box 1065
Edgartown, MA 02539
508 627-6170

ggreenough@edgartown-ma.us

Exhibit 2: MA5931 Chappy WISP - Existing AT&T 850 MHz Coverage

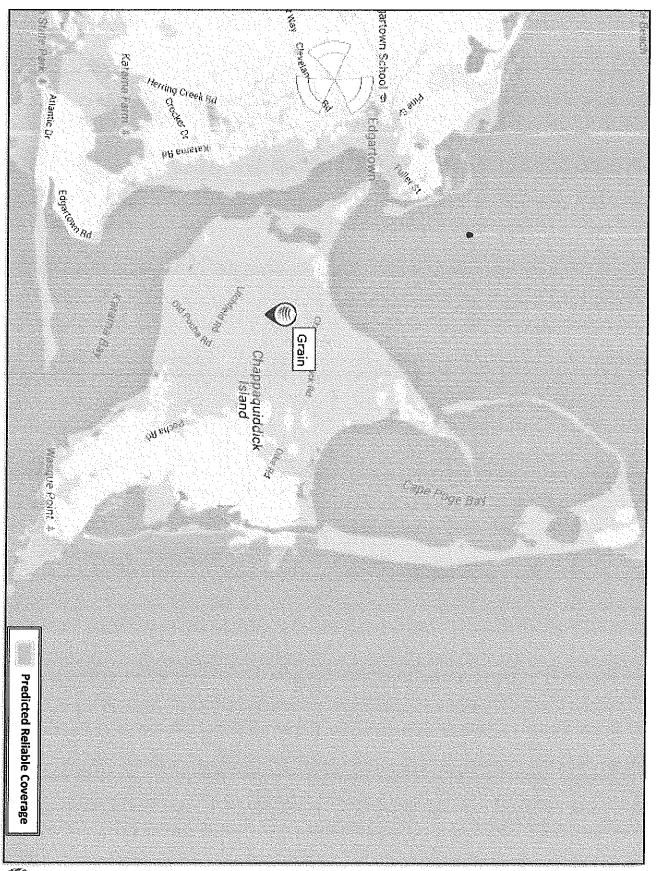


Grain Tower Location 180



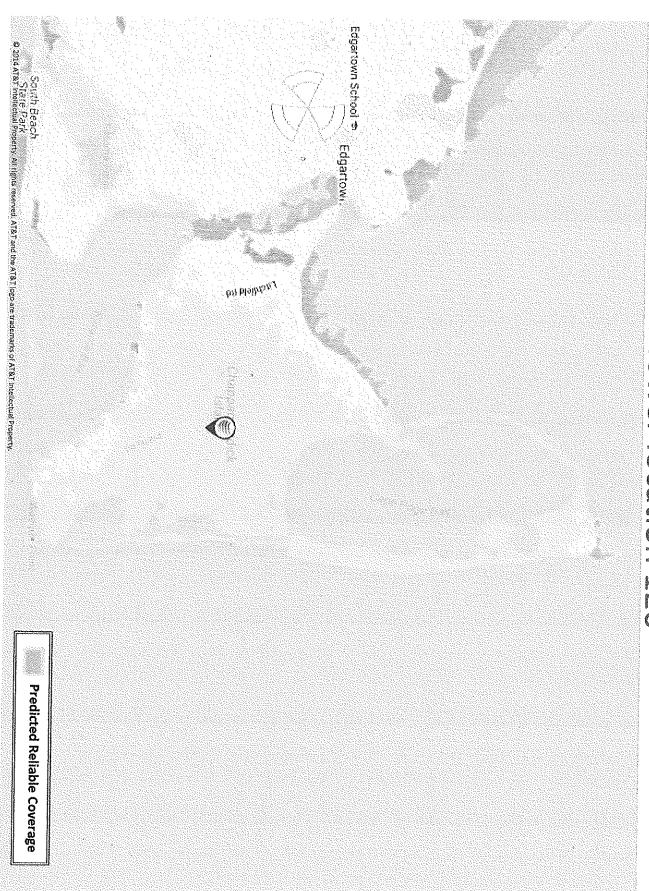


Gain Toker Location 100





Ham Tower location 120'



Ham Tower location 94'

