

Paul Foley

From: Rob Email [robstrayton@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 6:28 PM
To: Paul Foley
Subject: Fwd: Town of Edgartown and AT&T to build Cell Tower on Chappaquiddick, in spite of overwhelming opposition!

Paul,

I am writing this in Woods Hole as I wait to see if I can make the 7:30 ferry after the 6:15 was cancelled.

Below is an email I had sent to Senator Mike Barrett and to Anthony Colletti, Senator Dan Wolf's policy advisor regarding the Chappy tower. This is primarily a snapshot of the issues surrounding the tower.

Personally I am vehemently opposed to the tower on Samspon Ave specifically and opposed to a tower on Chappy generally.

If you look at Slide 1 of the presentation the words "located within" on that slide are literally located within my property. I am concerned about me and my family sleeping within one-hundred yards of this tower.

Perhaps more importantly the tower as proposed fails to meet the objectives set forth by the Town of Edgartown. The disparate technologies of CDMA versus GSM means that anyone using Verizon or Sprint, will not under any circumstances be able to connect to that tower.

Ultimately this tower is bad policy it does not provide increased safety and does not improve connectivity for the majority of Chappy residents and visitors.

This tower sets a terrible precedent on Chappy and ultimately opens the door for unchecked development on the island.

Thank you for your time and assistance, and hopefully I will be able to get on the ferry and make the meeting tonight.

Best regards,
Rob Strayton

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rob <robstrayton@comcast.net>
Date: April 7, 2016 at 10:20:18 AM EDT
To: anthony.colletti@masenate.gov
Cc: mike.barrett@masenate.gov
Subject: Town of Edgartown and AT&T to build Cell Tower on Chappaquiddick, in spite of overwhelming opposition!

Dear Senator Barrett,

It was a pleasure to see you again today and hope your meeting on Solar energy was productive. As I mentioned there is this ongoing issue about building a cell tower on Chappaquiddick. The Town of Edgartown and AT&T

are shooting to have this tower built by Memorial Day, so time really is of the essence. I would love to speak with Senator Wolf about this if you could help put me in touch with him.

Thanks again for your time and below is a synopsis of the issues.

Best regards,
Rob & Dana Strayton

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NEWS BULLETIN: URGENT

Town of Edgartown and AT&T to build Cell Tower on Chappaquiddick, in spite of overwhelming opposition!

Martha's Vineyard Commission (www.mvcommission.org) to vote April 7, 2016 to authorize Town of Edgartown to issue a permit to construct a cell tower on Chappaquiddick Island.

Edgartown Planning Board to hold hearing Thursday April 14, 2016 at 5:30 PM to authorize construction of a cell tower on Chappaquiddick. (**Note:** this hearing is NOT listed on the online Town Calendar)

Only 17 percent of Chappy resident's favor a tower.

Vendor and location of a tower shifted during the winter, while the fewest resident's were on the island.

- Changed tower vendor from Grain Communications to AT&T
- Changed location from sparsely populated Sampson Hill to the most populous year-round neighborhood on Chappy.
- Tower to be located at 14 Sampson Ave, in Chappy's most densely populated residential neighborhood
- Proposed site is a 1/2 acre privately owned, residentially zoned lot, currently occupied by the home of Robert Fynbo, owner.

Town of Edgartown cites "safety" as the need for a tower.

Brian Grossman, attorney for petitioner, AT&T, stated at the March 15, 2016 Edgartown Planning Board Hearing that the proposed tower would:

- Only provide coverage for no more than 78% of Chappy;
- Only serve AT&T subscribers;
- May or may not allow subscribers of services other than AT&T to connect in an emergency;

The current proposal fails to meet the stated objectives of improved safety.

To the contrary, the illusion of being able to use a cellphone in an emergency, only to discover that one cannot, makes everyone on Chappy **less** safe!

Preferred option available: Distributed Antenna System or DAS.

- DAS is essentially a series of small, unobtrusive cellular repeaters mounted on the tops of the telephone poles throughout the island.
- DAS successfully implemented in Chilmark & Aquinnah several years ago by American Tower Corporation of Boston, MA.

Edgartown issued an RFP for DAS:

- None of the carriers responded to the RFP for a DAS system;
- All cited its cost;
- Chappy, as a small rural community, with special environmental and historical preservation needs, while simultaneously underserved wirelessly is a perfect candidate for Connect America Fund/Mobility Fund consideration.
- To the best of my knowledge, no petition has been filed to access those federal dollars to build out a Distributed Antenna System on Chappaquiddick.

AT&T received over \$425 million in Connect America Fund money in 2015 alone.

Chappy has one street light (not traffic light, street light!), one paved road, no stores, no commercial developments of any kind.

The majority of the island is either state, county or private conservation land.

The entire Eastern & Southern side of the island is publicly accessible conservation land, and one of the principal breeding grounds of endangered piping plovers.

Cape Poge Bay & Pocha Pond are considered critical estuarine habitats, breeding grounds of osprey, bay scallops, lobsters, crabs, herring and other fish, birds and crustaceans.

Additionally, all of the discussions around cellular architecture and requirements took place in the absence of ubiquitous high-speed internet access on Chappy. Starting last summer, Comcast has wired the entire island and there is now high-speed internet everywhere on Chappy. Comcast will install at least a few public wifi hotspots (and there are several prominent public locations on the island including: the ferry landing, community center, fire station, Mytoi, Dike Bridge & Wasque ranger stations) and every subscriber on the island will have their own wifi networks. Smart phones always look to connect first to a wifi network, preferring the availability of a high-speed internet connection to a cellular network. Island-wide Comcast network and several prominent public hotspots completely changes the overall “cellular connectivity” landscape, and when combined with a DAS, provisions Chappy for the future. More importantly it does it in a way that preserves the island’s unique character, environment and charm.

I have spoken with State Representative Ken Gordon and with the office of Representative Tim Madden. I have a call into State Senator Dan Wolf, and have contacted Eric Kanter, in Congressman Seth Moulton's office. I also have a call into Congressman Keating's office, and have contacted Senators Markey and Warren I have also spoken with Gary Michaels of the FCC's Mobility Fund and have contacted Alex Menard at the Connect America Fund.

Contact:

Robert Strayton
307 Chappaquiddick Rd
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-341-4555
robstrayton@comcast.net

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