

Chappy Cell Committee

7/1/15. Meeting with Ken from Grain - selectmen's mission for us 2:30

Becker, Cobb, Darack, Filley, Gurnitz, Kennedy - - Edgartown Town Hall

Ken Louard from Grain communications met with us to discuss their RFP responses and answer questions from the committee. He talked about the importance of the carrier in the proposed options. Many times towers are proposed because of costs. Ken was asked the best way to get in touch with the cellular providers so that we could find out there level of interest in Chappy. A discussion about tower height followed, and while their proposal is for 150 feet, factors like first and subsequent carriers on, the height and density of trees, and finally the design is ultimately dictated by the engineering. In terms of DAS vs. Tower, all systems need to be above the tree line, but the concentration of antenna is much smaller in a DAS than a tower for height positioning. Ken gave examples of stealth towers, and stated that Grain would be more likely to want to do a stealth tower to meet a town's visual concerns than go to DAS. In terms of time frame to construct, first we would need the commitment of a carrier(s) to join the project, but usually less than three years. Populations density, areas where neighboring systems are at capacity, or where a problem needs to be solved get primary attention from the carriers. A number of questions and discussion about DAS followed. Ken stated they would love to do a DAS but needs carriers onboard. He discussed how carriers can sometimes give "lip service" but that in the end they need a real commitment to move ahead. He stated if a DAS system is to be done that they would need to come out and do a field study, but not as important for a tower. He felt that 8-12 DAS nodes equal one tower. Ken stated that David Grain doesn't want to do a project that is not a team effort and is getting community support. He talked about the critical importance of having proposals ready to be a part of the carrier's funding cycle. There was a discussion of the farm silo at Katama and the wishes of AT&T to get out and Verizon's desire to move in. A discussion of a view shed analysis followed. Ken discussed the possibility of doing balloon tests. After Ken's presentation the committee discussed the mission presented to us by the selectmen. The committee looked to ways to get providers to meet with us. Contacts will be made with Verizon people working on the Tower as well as with Richard Enright. The committee also wanted to find a good coverage map of the Island by the present carriers.

Approved 6/15/17