



**Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee  
Friday, March 21, 2014 @ 3:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

*Present: Georgiana Greenough, Roger Becker, Claire Thacher, Fran Clay, Dennis Goldin, Margaret Knight.*

*Guests: Bob Clay, Bob Sparks: Chairman - Edgartown Planning Board.*

*Absent: Will Geresy, Bob Gurnitz*

The meeting began at 3:05PM.

- Georgiana reviewed her activities of the previous week and a half. Will Geresy was not able to assist because of illness.

- a. Todd Weller, VP for DAS for Insite Wireless contacted Georgiana with the information that the rough estimate for a DAS (Distributed Antenna System) would be one million dollars for equipment and installation. Because of the capital expenditure (CapEx) involved, he said that he probably could not get a commitment from any carriers. However, if the town would pay part of the expense, he thinks that he could get carriers to commit to the project.

- b. The assistant for Charlie Loria (Capital Telecom) contacted Georgiana to request the RFP due to the Selectmen's charge to the committee asking for an RFP that was inclusive of all wireless technologies.

- c. Georgiana edited the letter that she had presented to the Selectmen at their March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting because Town Counsel (Ron Rappaport), did not want the town to commit to town partnership possibilities that was not in the form of a legal document (e.g. an RFP). The only addition made by the committee was to increase the number of nodes (from 5 to 5 - 10 ) needed to cover 95% of Chappy due to 4G requirements. There was agreement that the letter was well worded and might be effective when read by potential developers.

- d. Georgiana read a previous email sent 12/02/2011 to Tim Carroll from John Costa, American Tower, about the Chappy situation. His email raised several points: Access to tops of NSTAR utility poles bearing primary power is prohibited by NSTAR; Pole top access is limited to secondary power-only; Prospect of Comcast and/or Verizon leasing dark fiber from a DAS provider to launch fiber based services to the entire Chappy subscriber market is remote.

- Issues discussed:

- a. We reviewed the potential costs to build a DAS and agreed that having a town facility available, the possibility of using the fiber optics cable, and whether or not town or private money could be available could lessen the expense to the developer. The possibility that the Katama silo antennas could increase Chappy cell service is an unknown but could be a significant help thus requiring fewer nodes and perhaps a smaller hotel.

- b. A contact from Chilmark who was very involved in that town's DAS development advised that the Selectmen need to be engaged and involved to give the project credibility. His other advice is Don't Give Up.

- c. It was pointed out by Roger that in the beginning of our committee's efforts the Selectmen said that the town's concern was coverage for Chappy and NOT financial remuneration from a developer or carrier.

- d. NSTAR is known to be very difficult when any developer has asked to use their poles for cable.

- e. We discussed the town by-laws again in terms of the specificity about over height cell towers and the use of the Chappy fire station basement for a DAS hotel.

- f. We all agree that there are ways right now in which many homeowners would be able to install a booster to their router to get excellent reception. There was also agreement that other alternatives and new technology decrease the perceived urgency for cell service.

- g. Consultant conversation: Bob Clay reiterated his reasons for why he thinks that this project needs a knowledgeable person to make phone calls to developers on the list who have not been reached yet. Georgiana pointed out that consultants in the field won't make phone calls, e.g. David Maxson, Brian Savva. Our committee needs to find ways to have dialogue with wireless developers in order to make some progress.

- h. Dennis and others reiterated the need for someone in authority to talk to Richard Enright from Verizon to say, "What do you need to go forward?"

- i. Roger said he is working on an on line survey for the CIA to email to the 400 on his list. He recommended caution in sending out the survey as it would just lead to unnecessary concern. As president of the CIA he has been reporting regularly to the membership on the progress of the search for a cell provider who will sign on to the DAS. He reported he has not received any negative feedback on the committee's chosen route for cell coverage for Chappy. Roger said he would send out links to the survey if the committee thought it would be helpful assuming the CIA board concurred.

- **Motion:**

Fran Clay made the following motion: "The Chappaquiddick Wireless Committee recommends that the Selectmen do not issue an RFP for an over height cell tower on Chappy at this time. The committee has determined and agrees that a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) is the best system for Chappy and allowing and encouraging a cell tower developer to propose to build an over height cell tower will undermine the effort to interest a

DAS developer to build a less intrusive and superior facility for Chappy. As a committee appointed by the Edgartown Selectmen we are sensitive to those neighbors of ours who would suffer and be damaged should an over height cell tower be constructed close to their home. Our committee shares the desire with everyone to have appropriate wireless service on Chappy. But, we believe that a DAS or a comparable alternative should be the only system that our town should consider at this time."

Roger Becker seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued: Dennis Goldin added reasons for the motion: Because a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution is needed to provide cell service to Chappaquiddick and because all of Martha's Vineyard is a tourist destination, we believe that a DAS is the best technology for Chappaquiddick. Furthermore, part of the infrastructure (fire station and fiber optics) is already in place.

Roger added his reason for the motion saying: "It is important for the Selectmen to know where the committee stands."

VOTE: Fran, Roger, Margaret, Dennis, and Claire voted YES. Will and Bob were absent for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

- **Additional Discussion**

- a. It was agreed that this motion should be brought to the Selectmen's attention as soon as possible because the committee is on the agenda for the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

- b. Bob Sparks and Georgiana plan to make phone calls to developers the week of March 24<sup>th</sup>.

- c. Dennis and Roger will each compile a list of important points for Bob Sparks who said he would make calls for the town.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Fran Clay - Recorder