



Chappaquiddick Wireless Site Committee Thursday, October 27, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Those in attendance: Roger Becker, Fran Clay, Will Geresy, Nancy Slate (for Dennis Goldin), Georgiana Greenough, Bob Gurnitz, Claire Thacher and Jane Varkonda.

Absent: Margaret Knight.

Members of the public in attendance: Cory Dean, Eve Vincent representing Bill Brine.

Committee's Mission

A discussion took place regarding the mission of the committee. Comments ranged from determining the best way to increase coverage, to types of delivery systems, to setting a date for service to be implemented.

Roger Becker suggested that a study be done on Chappy regarding current coverage, current interest and demand, and environmental considerations, so the committee could recommend the best system to the Selectmen.

Jane Varkonda said that Isotrope, Inc. (David Maxson) has a good idea on the current coverage. She reminded the committee that considerations need to be made for emergency communication and visitors.

Will Geresy and Bob Gurnitz made a motion to adopt the following statement:
“Achieve mobile service in neighborhoods and beaches covering 95% of Chappaquiddick area with a ‘good’ signal or better. Implement coverage by Memorial Day 2012.”

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed deadline. Many said it was not feasible, as the deadline was unrealistic. The warrant article would have to be turned in to the Town by January 1, 2012. The RFP and the public hearing would have to be held prior to that time.

The proposed 95% coverage was questioned. Claire Thacher wanted to know about coverage out on the ocean. It was noted that coverage in the sound and harbors should be limited to the use of the Coast Guard's VHF channels.

Fran Clay said there is coverage already, but do we need 5 bars everywhere? It was noted that service dropped off around July 1st. Bob Gurnitz said when he investigated the situation, he was told if he didn't like the coverage, he could go elsewhere.

It was noted that the mission statement should include language covering environmental and visual impact concerns, such as: ***“In the process, the committee shall look at the public and private sectors including, but not limited to: aesthetics, public safety, and environmental issues including noise.”***

Roger Becker suggested a mobile cell tower mounted on a truck, (similar to those used by President Obama) be hired and used on Chappy for a summer.

The committee was reminded that there was a motion in front of them.

Roger Becker was not pleased with the statement and wanted to add the sentence: ***“Consideration by the committee shall not be influenced by any revenue potential to the Town.”***

The final wording of the committee’s mission was:

“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 issues including noise. Consideration by the committee shall not be influenced by any revenue potential to the Town.”

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next meeting shall be held, if the consultant is available, on Friday, November 4, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

Submitted by Georgiana Greenough