

Bike path is a town decision

To the Editor:

I've been reading the letters discussing the bike path controversy on Chappaquiddick and feel three points need to be made. The first is the bike path being discussed is an Edgartown bike path, it does not belong to the residents of Chappy. The second point is the highway department and planning board have a duty to make the town of Edgartown as safe as possible for the residents and visitor; they should not be asked to recuse themselves from this issue.

The third point is much more personal. I was returning home to Katama one afternoon during the late 1970s when I was stopped from proceeding along Pease Point Way. Before I had a chance to ask the police officer what was happening I noticed tears streaming down her cheeks, then I heard the screams. These screams weren't human, it was the sound of a banshee, something coming from a place I never want to go.

They were the noises made by a mother who had just watched her daughter die. Her bike had hit the curb and threw her under the wheels of a town dump truck. I have two questions to ask of the people who oppose the bike path. Why would you choose to risk

someone's life for the sake of a few trees, and are you willing to volunteer to be the one to call to tell someone that they have lost a family member? I've lived in Edgartown for 38 years and have worked numerous times on Chappy. It's a narrow road with many blind corners making it hard to pass a bike rider. To wait until we do have a serious injury rather than dealing with an emotionally charged issue would be criminal. The town should hold the required meetings to determine the facts and include an article in the next town meeting. Let the voters of Edgartown decide.

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