

Update # 6 from the Chappy Path Committee December 17, 2009

We report good news and appeal to you for financial and political support.

Summary. Dan Dulaski, a civil engineering faculty member of Northeastern University in Boston, has agreed to mentor a group of 3-5 senior civil engineering students who will do formal analysis and design plan for a bike path on Chappy in the Winter and Spring of 2010. In the course of this project, input will be sought from the community on Chappy by a mail survey as well as face to face meetings. The proposals and detailed designs will be presented to and reviewed by the appropriate Town Boards and Departments. The goal of this educational exercise is to bring the deliberation on a bike path to a rational and amicable conclusion. We need your help to raise \$2,500 for the project's expenses.

Rationale. The opponents' tactic this past summer of flagging trees on left and right sides of the road to imply the alarming devastation that would occur as a result of the path was very effective, but it also made us realize that we really did not have all the answers as to how the path would affect our landscape, and we really needed expert technical information to educate people about exactly what a path might look like. We want to answer the questions that continue to come up: where the path would go in relationship to the road, how wide, impact of path on wet lands and private property, etc.

The advantages of this project are:

- No cost to the town.
- Input and discussion with the community will be an important part of the process (both by a mail survey to all Chappy owners and in person).
- The output will be of professional grade.
- The leader of the project (Dan Dulaski, Ph.D.) has real expertise as a civil engineer and is quite comfortable working with community planning boards and with differences in opinion. He has recently designed a major bike path for Brookline.
- The product will be sufficiently specific in design and costs that a meaningful and rational discussion can be done on its merits.

- The project will also include solutions to the Chappy ferry landing area traffic and parking and the Dike road intersection.

Background. Northeastern Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Seniors do a Capstone Project, which is a required course, combining their formal training and their co-operative experiences in one or more fields of transportation, the environment or structures. As the Department states in the RFA, "All of the projects to date have been real-world projects that require planning, data collection, analyses, and design (short of the 100 % level). Design drawings and conceptual plans have been developed using field-gathered data and municipal-provided GIS. The project follows a consulting firm's structure, with a principal-in-charge, project manager, and staff. The faculty member teaching each class functions as the principal-in-charge. Each team, ranging in size from three to five students, typically has a project manager that directs the data collection, analysis, and design."

Dan's interest in a suitable project in Edgartown was referred to us for a proposal. We communicated the need for a detailed study of a bike or shared use path on Chappy, the history of the debate and the mixed opinions on the merits. When we met with Dan a few weeks ago, we were much impressed with his expertise, his enthusiasm for the project and his willingness to meet with members of the community to get a wide input on the plan.

Outline and Timeline of Chappy Path Design Project

January 2010. Dan will meet with the students and go over the general outline. They will send out a mail survey about the need and design of a path to all land owners on Chappy. Dan and his students will make a site visit to Chappy to review the possibilities and issues in the design.

February. Work on concepts and develop alternative strategies. Review the results of the mail survey, which will inform their discussions.

March. Second visit to Chappy. Dan and the students will meet with the members of the community in an open meeting to get feedback

and opinions on their ideas. Dan regards this as an important part of the process and part of the education of the students in the “real world.”

April-May. Dan and students finalize the design and meet with town officials and community to present the plan.

The final product will be a professional level, practical plan that will include the costs, the environmental and permitting issues and a detailed design that would be nearly “shovel ready”. If an commercial engineering firm did the same project, Dan estimated it would cost \$50,000.

We ask for your support. Dan indicated that the expenses for the project would be only \$2,500. We seek your help in raising this amount. Donations (\$25, \$50 or more if you wish) can be made directly to the Northeastern Development Office, who will acknowledge the gifts for tax purposes. A web site is available for donations: (<https://prod-web.neu.edu/webapp6/cashnetdotcom/anonymous/onlinegiving/initial.do>). To mail in a gift, please make your check payable to Northeastern University and send it to Development Information Systems, 461 Columbus Place, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Indicate in either case that your donation is for the College of Engineering – Chappy Project. Please send an email message to Chappybikepath@aol.com to let us know the amount of your donation.

Further Discussions. This week, members of our committee met with the Edgartown Selectmen to give them an overview of the project. They were supportive of our moving forward and we received assurances that we can use town facilities to conduct informational meetings, and also that we can use the Edgartown planning board as a resource.

We are continuing an effort to work with the CIA, in hopes that this organization can realize that if it is to represent all of the Chappy community, it should at least be willing to listen to the views of the substantial number of their members in favor of a bike path.

Chappy Path Steering Committee

Bob Colvin, Chair, Melissa Kagan, Co-Chair,
Will Geresy, Dick Knight, Joe Sullivan, Tom
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