

Sharing Chappy Roads

Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts

Dear Neighbors,

July 27, 2009

We are the *Sharing Chappy Roads Committee*, a group of Chappy residents and taxpayers who are concerned about the proposals for a bike path on Chappy. As many of you know there is a *Chappy Path Committee* actively promoting construction of a demonstration path and a permanent sidewalk/bike path on Chappy, and pursuing tax dollars for surveys and planning.

We believe the bike path could harm the island we all love so much. We take this opportunity to present alternative views and to engage in meaningful community discussion of the issues. We firmly believe no bike path initiative should move forward without a plurality of Chappy residents supporting it.

We invite you to attend an open public meeting for the entire Chappy community to discuss “Bike Path Pros and Cons.” The forum will take place on August 11th from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Chappy Community Center. This will be a professionally moderated discussion and everyone will be free to express his/her ideas.

This issue has been debated for almost thirty years. In our opinion, little has changed to require such major disruption with irreversible repercussions to our Chappy landscape. And make no mistake – change it will be – a major and costly infrastructure project involving destroying native habitat, digging up and moving roads, moving buildings, advancing on private property, and more.

Bicycles are present in greatest quantity on Chappy from mid-June through August. Summer bicycling should be fun AND safe, but do we need a major infrastructure addition to our island to address an issue that may be resolved easily in other ways, for much less money and with much less impact to our island?

Here are the major issues to be addressed at the forum:

- What are the best ways to promote the safe use of the road for all users?
- What can we do to make bicyclists feel safer on Chappy – without altering the landscape?
- What is the best way to use town resources to achieve safety goals? For example, could a dedicated Chappy summer police officer enforce the speed limit and rules of the road?
- What historic and permanent adverse changes would the proposed bike path make to our rural landscape?
- What conditions will be attached to funding for a bike path – such as state mandated design requirements like minimum width, surface material, etc.?
- What control will Chappy residents have over the process once the town, state and highway departments get involved in building a bike path?

Siamek & Joan Adibi • Roger Becker • Skip Bettencourt • Bill and Ann Brine • Bob & Fran Clay
Terry Forde • Susan Gomez • Chrissie Haslet • Geoff & Norma Kontje • Ginny Murray
Tom & Lys Pike • Edo Potter • Hatsy Potter • Steven & Barbara Raichlan

Sharing Chappy Roads

Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts

- What sort of precedent will this set in terms of paving over other Chappaquiddick roads?
- Is this really the best use of tax dollars generally, and particularly now?
- How would a path be maintained when so many of the town departments have cut their budgets?
- How will we – the homeowners and residents of Chappaquiddick – be affected by a bike path at our driveways, etc.?

Chappy residents have so many interests in common. We are all passionate about one fact; we love this little island for its rare, rural character and peacefulness. The *Sharing Chappy Roads Committee* was formed in response to the concerns of so many who want to preserve these aspects of Chappaquiddick for future generations.

So please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, August 11th at 7 pm.** Come to listen in or to share your view, but please do attend.

For an overview of the issues - from all sides of the question - or to make your opinion known please write to us:

Sharing Chappy Roads 302 Chappy Rd Edgartown MA 02539

SharingChappyRoads@gmail.com

or visit:

www.ChappyBikePath.com



Siamek & Joan Adibi • Roger Becker • Skip Bettencourt • Bill and Ann Brine • Bob & Fran Clay
Terry Forde • Susan Gomez • Chrissie Haslet • Geoff & Norma Kontje • Ginny Murray
Tom & Lys Pike • Edo Potter • Hatsy Potter • Steven & Barbara Raichlan