

Sharing Chappy Roads

Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts

March 18, 2010

Hello Chappaquiddickers,

As winter draws to a close and the first crocuses start to bloom, we can look forward to getting outdoors again and enjoying the woods, fields, marshes and beaches for another season. We live in a very special corner of coastal New England.

You are probably aware by now that a group of 5 civil engineering students have chosen to design a bike path on Chappaquiddick for their senior project at NE University. They were hosted and sponsored by the Chappy Path Committee (CPC), who raised some money to help fund their project. The students presented their preliminary design at the Edgartown Town Hall on Feb 26, with about 35 people in attendance. Their design calls for a lane of pavement 8 feet wide, separated from the road by a 7-8 foot median. It will cut a swath almost as wide as the current road. It will remove many trees which overhang and shade the road, cut into roadside embankments, and put bridges across the many roadside wetlands.

The initial outline of the student project included a mail survey to seek input from the community. As members of the Chappy community, we will be asked to answer the survey as a means of measuring support for the development of a bike path. The timeline, presented in December, outlined a survey being sent out in January and evaluated by the end of February.

I have not seen a survey in my mailbox yet, nor has anyone else I have spoken with. I am curious to see how a survey drawn up by the bike path planners could be objective, or how the same planners could then evaluate the results with any neutrality.

Our input is to be used as a basis for taking this plan before the larger community of Edgartown voters. If you receive any such survey, will you please share it and your responses with the broader community, and not just with the bike path planners? The survey and its results belong in the public realm, and not just in the hands of the sponsors of the bike path. Let's make this an opportunity for all of us to participate, beyond a question and answer format.

Please mail or Email a copy to the Sharing Chappy Roads committee at the addresses below.

Your opinion is extremely important, not just a 'yes' or 'no' to a bike path, but also your concerns and comments about Chappaquiddick. What makes this island such a special place to you? What do we need to preserve, and what are we willing to let go of?

Please read through the enclosed pages as you consider your responses. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Geoff Kontje

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