

# Proposal for a Guided Solution for the Chappy Ferry Line

Submitted to:  
Town of Edgartown  
Board of Selectmen

Submitted by:  
Community Supported Solutions  
Woody Filley

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# Community Supported Solutions

## Proposal for a Guided Solution for the Chappy Ferry Line

For more than thirty years, the Chappy Ferry line has been an issue of great concern. At times frustrations have grown to the point of “crisis”, prompting calls for immediate change. Ideas are floated, meetings happen, the summer ends, and in most cases, no substantive change takes place.

There are many reasons why this may be the pattern, and changing that is increasingly more important. With passing years available options will disappear and the need to address the issues are going to become more difficult. Chappy continues to grow, both in households (including the people who are servicing them—cleaners, builders, lawn care, etc.) as well as people using the public beaches, trails and other resources. Downtown is seeing its own pressures as vacant land is being converted to homes, and existing homes are experiencing increased use and growth.

In 1985 the Chappaquiddick Island Association commissioned a study of the ferry line to see who and how people were using it. The MV Commission did a follow up study in 1996. And as recently as last Spring the Edgartown Planning Board held meetings to address the concerns of the Simpson Lane residents dealing with the Ferry line. In each of these instances, ideas were generated and considered, but when it came time to implement them people dug in. Now there is talk of legal action; this could be very costly to all parties and may not produce any measureable change. Given this cycle, how do we move ahead?

Too often we have relied on volunteers, town boards, or others who do their best, but have busy lives or duties that do not allow them to focus solely on the issue. It is unfair to them and the community. Just getting out to listen to the people takes a great deal of time and effort, and has to be flexibly scheduled to coax people into being part of a solution. This proposal is for a process that will encourage participation by the community at all levels, sharing with people all of the past work that has been done, utilizing methods to stimulate creative problem solving, developing ideas beyond a simple “no it won’t work”, and building a solution(s) that people agree is for the best of the community. The process will offer continuity, be mission focused, impartial, inclusive, and time sensitive. In the following pages please read the specific proposal and timeline for these services and learn about the person leading it.

## **The Proposal**

Phase 1. Gather, compile, synthesize, and publish past work done on the Ferry line issues and solutions. Make available in electronic format to allow for access by everyone involved.

Phase 2. Gather input from the community. This will be accomplished through public meetings as well as individual and group interviews. People to be interviewed will include, but not be limited to: the Chappy community, service and trades people who use the ferry, visitors and those providing services to them, the people along the ferry staging route, the ferry owners and operators, and town employees and boards (police department, highway department, planning board, selectmen, etc.). Results from this work will be synthesized and published electronically.

Phase 3. Evaluate and prioritize ideas from the interviews, meetings, and prior studies. Work with the community to evaluate the ideas and develop any new ones. Begin a process of evaluating and prioritizing the ideas while focusing on ones most acceptable to the community.

### **Timeline**

The proposed timeline for this proposal is as follows:

Phase 1: 2 weeks

Phase 2: 4 weeks

Phase 3. 4 weeks

### **Deliverables**

1. Compilation and synthesis of previous studies and work done on Chappy Ferry line. Materials to be published on the web for access by anyone in the community.
2. Results of meetings, interviews, etc with stakeholders. These will be published in a summary form on the web. Two public meetings to be held to gather input on the topic.
3. Synopsis and review of ideas past and present. Results to be summarized on the web. One public meeting to review what we have found and work towards recommendations. An electronic “forum” for people to participate in reviewing and recommending/responding to ideas.
4. Final report to be distributed to the community and town government (selectmen, planning board, police and highway dept).

## **Costs and Funding**

The cost for the proposed 3 phases is \$10,000. This figure is for labor only. Additional costs incurred (ie. presentation materials, printing, digital reproduction, and any other costs associated with the project) will be billed separately. At the time of contract execution a proposed budget for supplies and services beyond the labor charges will be presented. Additional work outside the scope of this proposal will be billed at \$50 per hour. This proposal does not include implementation of solutions. That scope and costs would come in a later proposal.

It is presently proposed that the funding come from sources most likely to benefit from the results of the work. Suggestions would be: the Chappaquiddick Island Association; homeowners along the streets used for ferry line staging; the Town of Edgartown, and the Chappy Ferry.

## **Community Supported Solutions Woody Filley**

- Has lived on Chappaquiddick for more than 35 years.
- Over the years actively involved in local and regional politics. Some past positions held.
  - Edgartown rep to the Martha's Vineyard Commission - 6 years. Treasurer and Chairman during part of those years. Co-Chair of the Regional Master Plan.
  - Edgartown rep to the Dukes County Cable Advisory Board.
  - Edgartown rep to the MV Waste District.
  - Local Town committees - Chair, Chappy Cell Committee; Chair, Purchase the Chappy Ferry Committee; Town Computer Committee; Edgartown Growth Management Committee.
- Community projects and groups involved with and past positions held over the years
  - One of the original founders of the Chappy Community Center.
  - Member of the group that worked to bring Comcast to Chappy.
  - Board member and past president of the Chappy Island Association.
  - Member of the Trustees of the Reservations local committee.
  - Member of the Martha's Vineyard Mediation Program
  - Member of the Chappy Fire department - 20 years
- Previous Employment
  - Martha's Vineyard Regional High School - Technology Director
  - CompuPlan Design - Owner and Founder - Computer imaging and Visualization Business
  - Island Business Services - Owner and Founder - Secretarial and Business services for Islanders and visitors.
  - Dukes County Energy Coordinator
  - Co-Director of MV Recycling - Regional Recycling program/service.

From these and other experiences over my 35 years on Martha's Vineyard, I have learned how to work with groups and individuals to get things done. I have a reputation for being fair and open-minded, with the best interests of the community as a goal. My focus is to build creative solutions with the community to gain widespread support and adoption.

I am hopeful that you will consider this opportunity for Community Supported Solutions to lead the community to work together and find solution(s) for the Chappy Ferry line.