

Lower renews liquor license for Sportsmen's Club

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mains in possession of the premises and meets the qualifications for the issu-

ance of a club license, as it has since the 1970s. "The state's letter doesn't seem to attach any prior violations, police re-

ports, huge problems with the club. I think that's because there are none," Gillin-Schwartz said. "A lot of people didn't know

where this club was until they made an issue of it."

The club has been in existence since 1957, he said. A lease was signed in 1982 with the former owner of the property, Gillin-Schwartz said.

The DEP purchased the property in 1999.

"Instead of saying 'everybody out' on the date of closing, they specifically carved out the club," Gillin-Schwartz said.

A court case is in the discovery phase, he said. Gillin-Schwartz said he found a state document, a letter from July 1999, written before the closing date in September 1999, from John Flynn of the state's land acquisition office.

The letter noted the Sportsmen's Club had its clubhouse on Harbison-Walker property for nearly 50 years, references a 1982 lease and offers an invitation to extend the lease for a small amount of land. The state's letter suggested Harbison-Walker enter into a new lease with the club before the state purchased the property.

Gillin-Schwartz said Flynn attached a suggested lease to the letter.

"How did we get so far off course?" Gillin-Schwartz asked.

There is no legal impediment to the club remaining where it is, he said, noting the state may have had a change in policy that could be reversed. He said government entities frequently sign leases with non-profit organizations.

Sunset Beach Sportsmen's Club President Eddie Claven pointed out the crowd in the meeting room from the club offering their support.

Township solicitor David Stefankiewicz said the DEP claims the club is unlawfully occupying the land. He said the issue would be sorted out in litigation.

"I don't think it's really council's job to be a judge in that particular dispute; we're not equipped to do it. They're involved in discovery. That could be a long process," he said.

Stefankiewicz said the question before council was whether the club met all the criteria for renew-

al.

"They do, the DEP's only objection is that there is this real estate dispute," he said.

The township had no impediments to renewing the license at least until a judge rules, Stefankiewicz said.

Sippel said he has never heard any complaints about the club, which has had a liquor license for 44 years. He said the club has been involved in charitable activities.

In 2021, David Golden, director of the state Division of Fish and Wildlife, stated the club's building occupies land owned by the state within the boundaries of the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area.

"The club does not have, nor has ever had, permission to sell and serve alcohol on this state-owned and -managed land," he stated at that time. "The club is aware and has been reminded by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife personnel of the regulatory restriction on the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages."

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City boosts staff for summer

Continued from Page A1

State House Commission. In compensation for use of the quarter-acre lot, the city would dedicate 4.8 acres of land in the Sewell Tract as parkland.

The city's contracted engineer, Vince Orlando, said phase one of the renovation of Kiwanis Park has been completed. The work consisted of paving the concrete paths, fencing and removing some trees. He said the contractor completed phase one of the project well before a June 1 deadline.

Work will resume after Labor Day to finish the project, which includes

playgrounds, lighting and landscaping, Orlando said. Most of the landscape plantings will be identified with Braille signs for the visually impaired, he said.

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin asked if supply chain issues would affect completion of Kiwanis Park. Orlando said all items ordered for the park are anticipated to be delivered by the end of August.

Mayor Zack Mullock said he has seen a significant increase in the number of people using the park.

Orlando said phase three would be installation of restrooms, which could be undertaken in late fall

or early winter. Water and sewer have been installed as part of phase one, he said.

Some irrigation will be provided for landscaped areas, Orlando said.

Phase one of the Welcome Center expanded parking project has been completed. He said phase two would include landscaping, signage and additional concrete work.

Mullock said fencing should be installed by July 1 at the Welcome Center.

Orlando said he was ready to submit a dune maintenance proposal to the state.

"Just recognize the state will not approve it until we have our public access plan approved," he said.

Planning Board engineer Craig Hurlless is working on the access plan, according to Orlando.

Plans have been completed for new restrooms behind the beach tag office on the Promenade. Orlando's firm, Engineering Design Associates, is preparing bid specifications and expects to have the project completed by the end of summer.

When the restrooms are complete, the restroom trailer in front of Convention Hall on Beach Avenue will be removed, Mullock said.

Councilman Shaine Meier said he has been trying to get a sidewalk installed in front of the Atlantic City Electric substation on Elmira Street for eight years. Orlando suggested placing a sidewalk near the fence and a row of trees along the curbside.

The mayor said Atlantic City Electric did not want trees against their fence because it provides a pathway for squirrels. Trees along the street side would also protect pedestrians on the sidewalk, he said.

TIDES: June 28-July 5, 2023				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
28	3:48	4:40	9:49	10:46
29	4:46	5:30	10:38	11:42
30	5:44	6:20	11:29	
1	6:39	7:10	12:37	12:21
2	7:34	8:01	1:29	1:14
3	8:27	8:52	2:21	2:07
4	9:21	9:44	3:12	3:01
5	10:15	10:36	4:03	3:57

MOON PHASES

Full moon, July 3 • last quarter, July 10

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