

Cape May Point panel issues report on creation of an HPC

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — The borough has seen historic homes demolished or altered to the point of losing their history. Without a historic preservation commission like neighboring West Cape May and Cape May, the borough is powerless to stop tear-downs of historic homes.

Borough Commission has received a report from a Planning Board subcommittee on forming an HPC.

The subcommittee provided a report described by Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace as an inch and half thick.

At a June 23 virtual meeting, Commissioner Robert Mullock said having an HPC has received a cursory review over a number of years with public opinion sometimes becoming intense. He thanked the subcommittee for its work.

"I am very favorable to historic preservation and I feel that it is also valuable, one in preserving Cape May Point as a town

we all know and love and secondly, it also is very important to property values and there is a lot of information about property values and the impact on that," Mullock said.

Mayor Robert Moffatt said he believed the next step was to find the general consensus of the borough on forming an HPC. He suggested using the taxpayers' association bulletin to gather opinion.

In other business, Borough Administrator Ed Grant said he received a list from the borough's Environmental Commission Green Team of outstanding issues at Lake Lily. Some plantings need replacement, he said, noting this would not be the best time of year for such work.

He said he would review with Borough Commission an issue with the bicycle path. Mullock said previous plans for an observation platform needed to be discussed. He said he did not proceed with that part of the plan because once the project was completed the platform did not seem

necessary.

Mullock said he spoke with residents who felt the sidewalk and benches were sufficient for viewing the lake.

He said he has received questions concerning algae in Lake Lily with some noting lilies in some areas of the lake seem damaged.

"I do think there is a strong connection to that," Mullock. "The algae is pretty much an annual and seasonal event that is predictable."

Products are available to remove algae but the borough has tried to limit chemicals placed in the lake, Mullock said. He said no algae was visible where aerators were located in the lake and where lilies are located.

Mullock said lilies in the lake were negatively impacted in areas that were sprayed with Roundup,

including near the lake's island and algae has flourished in those areas. He said the state was studying seasonal algae and perhaps Lake Lily could be part of the study. Mullock said a goal would be to get rid of algae without using chemical treatments.

Phosphorus from fertilizer running off into a lake can encourage algae.

"We have to have some conversation with the number of landscapers that are treating peoples' properties and make certain that they are following the rules regarding use of fertilizers," he said.

The borough experienced a couple of breaks in water lines last week, one on Lighthouse Avenue and another on East Lake Drive, Grant said.

Standardized signs for regulations concerning dogs on the beach have

been ordered, he said. Grant said a tree removal on Brainerd Avenue will be inspected by the Department of Environmental Protection.

"They'll let us know if they're going to pursue it or if we are going to pursue it," he said. "If we're going to pursue it, our inspector is ready to issue summonses and do what he needs to do."

Fire inspections were suspended. Grant said the borough is waiting direction from the state Fire Marshal's Office.

He said the borough submitted an application to the state for additional funding for Yale Avenue reconstruction. The Ocean and Central avenue projects are in the closeout phase, Grant said.

"You want to close these out as quickly as possible, so you can get the funding

back into your cash flow," he said.

Pearl Avenue was recently paved. Grant said the borough has a checklist of items to address before it signs off on the project.

The borough is also working to close out the Lake Lily beautification project.

"That's a \$426,000 reimbursement from the Open Space Program from the county that we definitely get in as quickly as possible," Grant said.

Deputy Mayor Anita VanHeeswyk thanked resident Emelia Oleson and her team for once again getting the borough a \$4,000 Clean Communities Grant for spring and fall beach cleanups.

Moffatt reported the Point's beaches opened seamlessly.

"I've heard nothing but good reports," he said.

Summer jitney service on hold in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — It remains to be seen if the city will contract with the Atlantic City Jitney Association to provide service this summer in Cape May. The city administration has concerns the small buses may not be attractive during a pandemic.

Last summer, the jitney moved almost 50,000 persons around Cape May.

The jitney ran from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

Information from the Jitney Association showed the busiest time of day was 5 to 8 p.m., when

400 to 500 persons were moved each hour.

In July 2019, 23,000 persons rode the Jitney and 25,000 persons in August. A number of hospitality workers were transported to their job sites as well.

During a meeting June 16, City Manager Jerry Inderwies said the city was on hold with the jitney because the strength of the tourist season is an unknown at this point due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He said there was the potential to provide very limited service. Inderwies said he was not sure of the comfort level for persons riding the jitney.

"It may not be a practical move right now but it's something we're looking at, whether it just be weekends or at the high-volume times," he said. "It's not off the radar; it is an added expense."

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks said she received questions at her real estates office from potential visitors concerning whether the jitney was operating.

Mayor Chuck Lear said many restaurants are now using their parking lots for outdoor dining, putting more cars on the street seeking a place to park.

"The jitney still makes sense, however we can

work it out," he said. "I think we are going to be encouraging people to leave their cars, park them somewhere else."

Lear said he believed the jitney could be used this summer.

He said the city has a contract with the Jitney Association that allowed Cape May to request service when deemed necessary.

Inderwies said the city pays by the number of jitneys on the road and a daily fee.

He said the cost is \$450 per day per vehicles. Running two jitneys on a weekend would cost \$900 per day.

More seating

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city property and space on Draper Walk next to Quirk and Co.

Council approved 36 seats with five four-top

tables located beside Winterwood and four four-top tables on Draper Walk.

Cape May Fish Market, at 408 Washington St. on the mall, made three submissions to the city for

outdoor dining space on city property.

Council approved five four-top tables in Decatur Street.

City Clerk Erin Burke said the tables were located

on the north side of the street closer to Stewart's restaurant, which received approval for five four-top tables.

The Ugly Mug previously received approval for five four-top table in Decatur Street, she said.

FiNS Bar & Grille had been approved for three four-top tables beside the building on the sidewalk and three four-top tables located on Decatur Street.

410 Bank Street restaurant was approved to use the small municipal parking lot adjacent to Cape May Stage's Robert Shackleton Playhouse. Approval was granted for relocating 70 seats consisting of one eight-top table, five six-top tables and eight four-top tables within the parking lot.

Burke said 410 Bank Street had mercantile license approval for 80 indoor seats and 56 outdoor seats.

Barriers were installed between the road and the lot to protect diners at the expense of the applicant.

City Manager Jerry Inderwies inspected and measured all the properties prior to council's approval.

He said Public Works placed extra trash cans around the city and ordered 75 additional cans with lids to be placed at the beaches, mall and Promenade.

Recycling cans have been placed inside the barricaded areas on Beach Avenue where outdoor dining has been extended to the sidewalk.

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