

Cape May Point again discusses historic preservation

By RACHEL SHUBIN

Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Deputy Mayor Anita VanHeeswyk suggested the idea of starting a historic society in Cape May Point during a Borough Commission work session Dec. 17.

"I think it would be great with moving into the new year, to encourage people to start a historic society through the borough," VanHeeswyk said.

She said she would like to see a group collecting and compiling Cape May Point mementos.

"There's a wonderful Christmas card out there that is so Cape May Point," VanHeeswyk said. "We have a few things in the safe; it would be great to have people compiling these for us."

Stories and photographs are essential to the preservation of the historic town.

Commissioner Bob Mullock said he likes the idea of a historic society in Cape May Point.

"When we start looking at our history and valuing it more, as so many new folks move into community, we'd have a better appreciation for what we've been gifted as a community," Mullock said.

Concerns of preservation of both natural habitat and historic homes is often discussed in Cape May Point.

"I think for Cape May

Point, historic [preservation] is key and a priority," VanHeeswyk said. "I don't think we should ignore the concerns of people about the older homes."

On March 19, the borough's oldest home was demolished and discussions ensued in the borough to develop a Historic Preservation Commission to try to protect what is left. Members of the public spoke on social media against the demise of the Theobald house at 311 Cape Ave., built in 1820.

A home at 311 Lincoln Ave. is currently slated for demolition.

"I know in the area we have another historic house being demolished," Mullock said. "I think that as we value our environment, part of that environment are these historic structures."

Mullock said he had previously asked for a resolution to have notice of the demolition of historic properties 90 days before destruction.

"It gives us a chance to encourage people to restore rather than tear down," Mullock said. "I think for a while, the properties have been torn down have not been as critical, being cottages. Now the properties being targeted are the bone of the community."

A 90-day notice would allow ample time for homeowners or builders to make plans.

"It takes at least that amount of time to even decide what they're going to do, how they're going to do it and get through the planning process and architectural plans," Mullock said.

Losing historic properties does not send the right message about the community, Mullock added.

"We are so conscious of environmental things and proud of Cape May Point for that," Mullock said. "I'd like to see us be more protective of our historic structures."

Mullock said he did not have a single solution but is hoping to continue to discuss the matter in 2020.

"I think we should see what we can do as a community to come to an agreement on it," Mullock said. "Not to have a big battle or fight about it, but do it in the way that awards people who protect historic properties. We can make decisions that a good portion of the community agrees with."

VanHeeswyk said the Planning Board is planning to have someone from the state Historic Preservation Office come and talk about possibilities.

"We have to wait for that," VanHeeswyk said. "My sadness is people complain about properties that no one bought. A group could gather together and save it."

Mayor Bob Moffatt said there is a lot of misinforma-



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The borough's oldest home was demolished in March and now this home at 311 Lincoln Ave. is slated for demolition, prompting talks about a historic preservation commission.

tion about historic properties being torn down.

"I don't know if it is correct, but the previous owners tried to save it and it was not salvageable," Moffatt said.

VanHeeswyk said it was not correct and Mullock added it was the word on the street.

"It's always one property that breaks the camel's back," Moffatt said. "It's a cycle. I think delaying would help with misinformation. It's a danger and I hear about it from certain people."

VanHeeswyk said it is

private property and not her place to comment.

"That is why the law recognizes a historic preservation commission," solicitor Brock Russell said. "Otherwise whether you have a 60- or 90-day hold, you have to have somebody who wants the building pretty quickly and there needs to be a place to put it."

Mullock said a lot of the new construction is beautiful and provides major improvements. He added there is the possibility for people who are interested in historic buildings to dismantle and place it

elsewhere within the community.

Regulations set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for flood insurance in Cape May Point is another impact on the choice to elevate, tear down or build new homes.

"There are numerous communities that have faced these issues and they have very strong, successful historic district commissions," Mullock said. "We have to work at it and there's plenty of people willing to help in that process."

VanHeeswyk said they have found the Ames report from 2007, a \$40,000 report looking at the character of Cape May Point.

"It's also in our master plan, the streetscape is historically significant," VanHeeswyk said. "There are other things in Cape May Point that give it its character, not specifically the properties."

Residents brought up the future demolition of Saint Mary by-the-Sea, which the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, announced in 2018.

"We were asked by St. Mary's to be strictly confidential in any discussions that occur," Mullock said. "Hopefully we will have discussions in 2020. They have reservations through 2022 for people coming to their retreats."

Animal Alliance to benefit from Acme's bag program

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Animal Alliance of Cape May County (AACMC) has been selected as a beneficiary of the Acme Give Back Where it Counts Reusable Bag Program for the month of January.

The program, which launched in August, facilitates community support with the goal of making a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

The AACMC was selected as the January beneficiary of the program by leadership at the ACME in the Cape May and North Cape May locations. The AACMC will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$3 reusable

Give Back Where it Counts bags are purchased at these locations during January, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

"All of the volunteers here at Animal Alliance of Cape May County couldn't be more exhilarated about the opportunity to work with Acme Markets in support of our mission," said Karen Cantwell, AACMC president. "These donations will greatly help to end the euthanasia of cats by providing the desperately needed financial support of our all-volunteer low-cost spay/neuter program."

My County Poster Contest entry deadline set Feb. 28

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Constitutional Officers of Cape May County are sponsoring their 28th annual My County Poster Contest open to fourth-grade students countywide.

Sheriff Robert Nolan, County Clerk Rita Marie Fulginiti and Surrogate Dean R. Marcolongo sponsor this annual event to bring awareness of the function of county government to fourth-graders, who regularly study the topic as part of their curriculum.

The object is for the student to depict his or her concept of what is unique about Cape May County and how it relates to county government.

"We encourage students

to think about what is special about Cape May County government and draw it," Fulginiti said. "This year's national theme is 'Counties Matter,' highlighting how counties help to improve people's lives every day."

Any poster drawing that relates to any aspect of Cape May County or county government is acceptable.

"Past contest winners have been highly creative with posters depicting our county's coastal, agricultural, marine and recreational venues as well as the important county government services our citizens rely upon," Fulginiti said.

Last year's winners are available at capemaycountynj.gov/1082/my-county-poster-contest.

The Constitutional Officers have notified the county's elementary schools of the contest. Many fourth-grade teachers encourage their students to create posters for the contest as an in-class project. Other students create their posters at home. Students are eligible to submit only one entry. Group entries are not accepted.

Twelve winning posters will be selected by a panel of independent judges. The winning posters will be displayed in the court house lobby during the month of April to commemorate County Government Month. These winning posters will be featured on a 2021 color poster calendar distributed to the winners and 2021

fourth-grade classes. All 12 winners will receive a tote filled with items and a personalized mug.

The first-place winner will also receive a \$100 gift card plus a pizza party with his/her homeroom classmates. Second- and third-place winners will each receive a \$50 gift card. There will be nine honorable mention winners. All 12 winners, along with their families, friends and school personnel, will be invited to participate in the My County Poster Contest Awards Ceremony scheduled for April 3 in the Cape May County courts facility.

The guidelines for the poster contest are as follows:

— Eligible participants: Fourth-grade students from Cape May County. The poster drawing must be entirely the work of the student.

— Poster size and paper type: 22x28 white poster board

— Format: Cape May County must appear in 4-inch black letters at the top of poster. Poster must depict student's concept of what is unique about Cape May County and how this relates to county government. Student and teacher name as well as the name of school must be printed on back of poster. Please do not use three-dimensional objects glued onto the poster.

— Deadline to submit entries: 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Entries must be delivered to

County Clerk Rita Marie Fulginiti at 7 N. Main St. in Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

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Do Recycle

CANS & BOTTLES

Glass Bottles
(green/brown/clear)

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Steel (tin) Cans

Plastic Bottles #1 thru 7

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Computers & TV's

PAPER

FOOD BOXES
Cereal - Rice - Pasta
Newspapers

Magazines

Office Paper
Cardboard Soda
& Beer Containers

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Help maintain the quality of recyclables sold as secondary raw material. Place for recycling collection only the items listed under "Do Recycle."

Do Not Recycle

The Following Items are NOT ACCEPTED for Recycling Collection and must be Placed in Trash.

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WE DO NOT PICK UP BRANCHES. TAKE BRANCHES TO RECYCLE YARD.

Yard Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30am - 3:15 & Sat. 8am-noon- closed Wed.

We are closed Holidays - pick up

will be the following day for each holiday.

Picking up Christmas trees starting 12/26 • Trees must be free of all decorations

Please Remember ...

All Cape May City properties are entitled to a once a week curbside pickup of recycling.

This includes: Bottles, Cans, Plastic and Glass Jars, Newspapers, Corrugated Cardboard, Office Paper, Junk Mail and Magazines

• Please do **NOT** use plastic bags for anything.
• Recycling will **NOT** be picked up if it contains any type of contaminant



PAPER SHREDDER AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Labels for Recycling Containers are available on request or can be picked up at City Hall or Recycling Office located at the Public Works Complex on Canning House

Any questions call the Cape May City Recycling Office at 609-884-9570

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