

Sharrows, crosswalks, racks top bike panel wish list

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has a \$50,000 budget for items such as share-the-road arrows (sharrows), better crosswalks and bike racks.

That money will only go so far. During a meeting Aug. 11, Mayor Zack Mullock said the committee should assemble a top 10 wish list and expect the city to get to the

top five items this year.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Joe Picard said the city received a quote of \$9,000 to place sharrows on Columbia Avenue. Mullock said the city looked into purchasing sharrows and having Public Works install them instead of using a contractor.

Mullock asked that a subcommittee be created to determine how many sharrows could be purchased this year and prioritize the most highly

traversed or dangerous locations.

Committee Chairwoman Holly Tilford asked if crosswalks could be created using the same type of thermoplastic material as the sharrows. Picard said it was an expensive proposal.

"They are time consuming, or I could get a quote to get them all done," he said.

Picard said an earlier version of Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee wanted Public Works to in-

stall sharrows on Elmira Street but he was not sure the Joint Insurance Fund would allow it without the street being designated as a "share the road" zone.

City Manager Mike Voll said there could be a liability issue for the city if the sharrows are in the wrong place and bicyclist is injured on Elmira Street. Picard said the state Department of Transportation has regulations governing sharrows.

Committee member Jim Moffatt said the two streets in Cape May he was most concerned with were Columbia Avenue and Beach Avenue. He said neither street was wide enough to have bike lanes on both sides of the

road. The mayor said the county planned to repave Beach Avenue next year. In 2019, a consultant offered a number of solutions to make Beach Avenue safer for bicyclists.

Mullock said the city has seen multiple suggestions for which models of bicycle racks to purchase. He asked for a consensus for the committee to purchase the best bike rack for Cape May.

Picard said he had eight bike racks in the Public Works yard and two racks on order to replace racks at Carpenter's Lane and Jackson Street.

Tilford asked if some bike racks are removed each year. Picard said he tried to remove

all bike racks from Beach Avenue before winter because of snow plowing operations. He said green bike racks on the Washington Street Mall do not appear to be serving their intended purpose.

"They're too tight, that's why we bought the double-sided for the mall, so you can park bikes on both sides," Picard said. "We have the double-sided ones at the cove behind the guard rail."

Along the seawall, there is only enough space for single sided bike racks, he said.

Voll said County Engineer Robert Church said the safe route to school bike path to get students from Coast Guard housing to Cape May City Elementary School would be completed by March 2022.

Students who ride their bicycles from housing outside the Coast Guard base to the school must cross three busy roads, Pittsburgh Avenue, Washington Street and Lafayette Street on their way to and from school.

The route from base housing to the school uses Pennsylvania Avenue, crosses Pittsburgh Avenue, continues on Pennsylvania Avenue to Michigan Avenue to Madison Avenue to Lafayette Street.



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