

# DeSatnicks: Meeting focus replenishment not safety

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A meeting held Aug. 25 at Convention Hall with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection was more about beach replenishment than the advertised topic of beach safety relating to injuries in the surf zone, according to Anita DeSatnick, a member of the city's Beach Safety Committee.

At a Sept. 6 City Council meeting, she said a 90-minute presentation by the Army Corps, DEP, Stockton University and City Engineer Tom Thornton was excellent but was "completely and totally reports about beach restoration."

"Safety did not enter the conversation until the citizens questioned the committee," she said. "I per-

sonally wonder if the panel had any information on the Beach Safety Committee's concerns, which is beach safety."

DeSatnick said she realized the city was dealing with Mother Nature.

"But the human element that people are suffering injuries in Cape May is real and many times they are not the result of people taking chances or behaving badly," she said.

Beach Safety Committee member Dennis DeSatnick asked that a standing committee be formed for beach safety.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the city would explore that possibility as it has discussions about surf zone injuries with the state of Delaware and Cape Regional Medical Center. Dennis DeSatnick said a more comprehensive committee is needed.

He concurred with Anita DeSatnick that the meeting featuring the Army Corps and DEP representatives was about beach replenishment rather than beach safety or the surf zone "which has been under discussion for 13 months."

The city was going to undertake a joint study of surf zone injuries with Burdette Tomlin Hospital many years ago, said Dennis DeSatnick. Mahaney said the hospital was not interested in the study some years ago.

Dennis DeSatnick said in August, one year ago, it was promised the city would have an immediate meeting with DEP and the Army Corps to see if there could be any adjustment to the beach slope with Cape May seeking the support of other coastal towns.

Dennis DeSatnick urged council to form a standing committee with additional

members from the hospital, high school oceanography program and a legislator.

"You and I are not going to formulate the committee," Mahaney said. "The committee will be formulated based on the input that comes in."

Dennis DeSatnick asked if the Army Corps had received police incident reports of surf zone injuries from 2005 to 2015 and sent them to the Army Corps.

"If you sent them to them, they have them," Mahaney replied.

"Oh, if I sent them?" replied Dennis DeSatnick. "That was supposed to be done in October by council."

Mahaney said the city sent the incident reports. Dennis DeSatnick said he believed the city sent a different report, not the police incidents report. The mayor said during the meeting in Convention Hall that Richard Pearsall of the

Army Corps said he shipped all the reports back to DeSatnick because they did not have the capability of analyzing them.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he sent to the Army Corps reports from the Beach Patrol dating back to 2008 and some reports from the fire department.

The most accurate surf zone injury reports come from the police department, Dennis DeSatnick said.

"We have the problem. It is not being corrected. We're doing a wonderful job with the education program," he said.

Dennis DeSatnick said he did not believe the meeting in Convention Hall served the public's interest.

"Right now we're not 100 percent clear that it is a problem or a problem specific to Cape May," Chris Constantino of the DEP's Bureau of Coastal Engi-

neering said at the Aug. 25 meeting.

Pearsall said there was a need for more study.

"We're not at all convinced that there is a safety issue per se that these beaches are unsafe, we just have not seen evidence to that affect," he said last month.

The beach slope can be changed to alter the impact of the waves but the slope goes back to its original form, Pearsall said.

"I'm not sure there is too much we can do in terms of tinkering with slope," he said.

He said the Army Corps was not equipped to do epidemiological studies but it could order a study of beach safety issues for the entire New Jersey shore if ordered to do so by Congress. Pearsall said it could be contracted out, working with the DEP and try to get funding.

# Swept away by storm, CMBP stand washes up in Delaware

By MOLLY MURRAY  
Delaware News Journal

INDIAN RIVER INLET, Del. — All summer long, Kyle, Steger and Poge kept Cape May swimmers safe

from a white and red life-guard stand, with their names penciled across the front.

Then, over the long holiday weekend, the stand got swept into the surf, where

it traveled past Delaware Bay, Lewes, North Shores, Henlopen Acres, Rehoboth and Dewey beaches and washed up at Delaware Seashore State Park, just north of Indian River Inlet.

"That's ours," said Joe Sutter, an administrative assistant with the Cape May Beach Patrol. "I guess it just got caught in the surf."

Rehoboth Beach Patrol lost seven stands in one evening in July 2015 when vandals tossed them in the ocean.

because it would have been too costly to drive down and pick it up.

TIDES : September 2016				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
14	6:35	6:56	12:16	12:22
15	7:21	7:42	1:00	1:12
16	8:06	8:28	1:44	2:01
17	8:52	9:14	2:29	2:51
18	9:39	10:02	3:14	3:42
19	10:27	10:52	4:00	4:36
20	11:19	11:47	4:49	5:32
21		12:15	5:42	6:33

**MOON PHASES**  
New moon, Sept. 20 • first quarter, Sept. 28

State park officials discovered it and moved it to a parking lot and then started calling around to see who was missing a stand. A small marker screwed on the back says it was made by the State of New Jersey Department of Corrections.

The stand was in remarkably good condition for having been tossed in the surf, Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Police Chief Wayne Kline said. Sutter said Cape May officials plan to travel to Delaware to retrieve their missing stand.

Kent Buckson, captain of the Rehoboth Beach Patrol, said that all were eventually recovered though one of them was found 250 miles away rolling in the surf at Salvo, N.C. Buckson said all the others were brought back to Rehoboth and are back in use. They donated the one in Salvo to the beach patrol there

While most of Delaware's beach patrol stands are painted white or are natural wood, many New Jersey resorts color-code their stands. Ocean City, N.J.'s are white with red and blue trim, for instance, while Cape May's are white with red trim and North Wildwood's are white with blue trim.

# Beaches took a hit from Hermine

Continued from Page A1

of our beaches," he said. "However, the project that is upcoming for this winter is already out to bid."



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Based on past experience, the Army Corps has some options in the bidding format that allow it to place additional sand and to make some adjustments, MacLeod said.

A pond has been present on the cove beach most of the summer. It grew following Tropical Storm Hermine. On some tides, a lagoon-like area is present.

MacLeod said sand accumulated at the cove.

"Instead of the one tidal pool or pond, there's now a second one and the second one is a little closer to the stone groin," he said.

There was speculation if Cape May had been severely impacted by the storm, the tidal pond would have disappeared, MacLeod said. He said the city has continued a dialogue with the DEP regarding

A pond has been present on the cove beach for most of the summer. It grew following Tropical Storm Hermine. During some tides, a lagoon-like area is present. The city has been in talks with the state DEP about steps it can take to remedy the situation.

the pond. "We believe we will have

the capability and be provided permission to make some adjustments there to help get rid of those tidal ponds," MacLeod said.

responded, administered oxygen before the boy was transported to the hospital.

Two weeks ago, a 5-year-old boy was found unconscious in the tidal pond. The city's Beach Patrol, police and fire department

After the storm, the city has continued to pursue a remedy to take action with the tidal ponds. MacLeod said the city hoped to fill in or drain the ponds.

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