

Delaware Bayshore Council sets goals for bay beaches

DENNIS TOWNSHIP — The Delaware Bayshore Council, a group of municipal and state officials and representatives of environmental organizations, has formed a consensus of its priorities and goals concerning beach replenishment along bay beaches and hopes for changing FEMA guidelines to head off steep flood insurance rate increases.

The council held its third meeting Sept. 10 and laid out an action plan and formed committees, according to a news release.

An action plan includes obtaining mapping for current and prospective projects from the Delaware Memorial Bridge to Cape May Point, sand flow mapping for Cape May and Cumberland counties, getting federal and state matching grants, meetings regarding aquaculture locations, engaging the state Department of Community Affairs for support and Sustainable Jersey

for grants.

The council set priorities of gaining recognition for the Delaware Bayshore region and developing a comprehensive plan that supports endangered species, preserves character and protection of property, gains funding in support of bayshore ecotourism, advances a Cumberland bayshore recovery plan, mouth-to-bay restoration of the Maurice River and obtaining U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restoration projects along the bay.

Under long-term goals, the council is seeking sustainable economic opportunities for residents, a voice in Trenton and Washington, faster and better permitting processes, resiliency planning for the next 50 years and a study of sand movement leading to strategic placement of sand.

Under short-term goals, the Delaware Bayshore Council is seeking to raise public awareness regarding value of the



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Delaware Bayshore Council created an action plan that includes obtaining mapping for current and prospective projects from the Delaware Memorial Bridge to Cape May Point, sand flow mapping for Cape May and Cumberland counties and acquiring federal and state matching funds.

region, identify and secure funding opportunities, advance restoration projects and change FEMA flood designations.

A policy committee including all municipal representatives will be chaired by Connie Mahon. A by-laws committee

will be chaired by Meghan Wren. Council Chairman Norris Clark, who is also deputy of Lower Township, will head a

communications committee for branding and promotion. State Sen. Jeff Van Drew's office will chair an issues committee concerned with aquaculture and red knots.

At a Sept. 9 Lower Township Council meeting, Clark said migrating red knots being declared an endangered species means any beach restoration project along Delaware Bay to be considered has to benefit the birds. He said beach area was restored along the bay in Middle Township to help the red knot.

Clark said beach restoration was being considered in Villas from Mallow Road to Miami Avenue. Environmental groups would want the township to enforce state laws for beaches where walking is prohibited for one month per year during red knot migration.

Clark said residents along the bay have expressed concerns about the beach being closed for a month.

Gas station

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the site for more than 50 years, said Bashaw, noting it was important to have more than one gas station in town.

"The master plan of the village to have that retail corridor continue along Sunset in a consistent way led to the idea that perhaps we could build a building on the site that would house the Exit Zero facilities, their offices, their store and a small café," he said.

The project required a "D" variance for its continuing use as a gas station, which is a nonconforming use in the zone. Variances were also needed for the height of the roof and setback from 1st Avenue.

Engineer Vince Orlando, representing the applicants, said the high canopy of the current gas station would be removed. He said entrances to the station would be reorganized with an exit-only drive onto Sunset Boulevard, an entrance-only drive from Fow Avenue and an exit-only drive on 1st Avenue.

The station's existing sign

will be relocated to the 1st Avenue side at a lower height, Orlando said. He said state regulations require a sign advertising a station's gas prices.

Orlando said the project would offer 15 parking spaces, while 19 were required. To mitigate the shortage of spaces, the applicants will donate \$5,000 to a borough parking fund designed to create municipal parking in the future, he said.

The building height will exceed regulations by 3 feet, Orlando said.

Bashaw said the former Shell station's underground gas tanks were given a "clean bill of health." Fuel would be delivered once a week in peak season, according to Orlando.

Bashaw said the station under its current ownership sold about 400,000 gallons of gas per year, which he described as light. He said the station's tanks hold 40,000 gallons, so fuel deliveries may occur only 10 times per year.

"Hopefully we'll do a little bit more gasoline there if it's

open and tended," Bashaw said.

Wright said hours for the Exit Zero store would probably be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the restaurant seating its last person no later than 9 p.m. He said the gas station would operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Orlando said the site currently has no drainage system for rainfall but drainage inlets would be installed at Fow and 1st avenues. He said the entire parking area would utilize porous concrete.

During public comment, neighborhood resident Laura Mowrey questioned if the applicants could contribute to the borough's parking fund, which she said did not apply to new construction, according to an ordinance.

Louis Dwyer, attorney for the applicants, said the project was a combination of renovation and new construction.

Fow Avenue resident Michael Bean said he was concerned the traffic flow into the gas station would dump traffic into residential areas.

Roads in Lower to close Sept. 20 for 5K run

ERMA — The Lower Township Police Department is informing motorists and residents of a temporary road closing starting at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, and lasting until about 11 a.m. to facilitate the Run the

Vineyards 5K foot race.

Roads scheduled to be closed include Townbank Road between Seashore Road and Shunpike Road, and Shunpike Road between Townbank and Tabernacle Road.

Motorists wishing to cross Shunpike Road at Crawford Road, Fishing Creek Road or Tabernacle Road will experience delays and are encouraged to avoid this area if possible.

COAH

Continued from Page A1

in the '80s. It is really important because being certified meant we could not be threatened with a lawsuit, which could in effect throw our zoning out. I hope we can have something together (to meet new rules) by 2018," vanHeeswyk said. "We have done everything we needed to do out of the COAH funds."

Due to meeting affordable housing requirements in the past, the borough has been given the highest rating by the committee, Solicitor Brock Russell said. He had appeared just that day with representatives from 25 other municipalities in Cape May and Atlantic counties before a COAH judge in Trenton for a case-management conference.

The COAH state agency has had rules for providing low-cost housing units in municipalities since the 1970s. This year, the New Jersey State Supreme Court threw out the rules, according to Russell. The result of the conference was that the court will be hiring a planner to be paid by the municipalities.

The judge stated that Cape May Point, being in a good position, should not be assessed the same share for the cost of a planner as other municipalities with compliance problems.

"I thought we did well today. We are not in as much trouble as I thought we were because we are in Group A (the most compliant group)," Russell said. "We ought to thank Anita."

Other items on the agenda reflected a good summer. Mayor Bob Moffitt reported beach tag sales were better than last year, resulting in an increase in revenues. The beach program had a great year as well. He thanked the beach patrol and the beach tag staff for a job well done.

Brady Schoenrock, code enforcement officer and rental inspector, was commended for his hard work. He has been on the job since his appointment early this year.

Moffitt thanked residents for expressing their concerns not only by letter but also by email and encouraged them to continue to bring their concerns to his attention.

Commissioner Bob Mullock reported that the installation of electronic water meters would be completed this fall. Savings will offset the cost of \$305,000 to the borough. Water bills will remain the same and one bond will be paid off by 2016. The bonds for the utility have been redone with the efforts of the commissioners and consultant Ed Grant for a considerable

savings. There is more efficiency and a surplus in the funds, he added.

"We expect this will be the last manual reading. It (installation of the meters) will be very efficient and cost saving for the municipality," Mullock said. "It will not require any increase in the water bills."

He also said that meetings concerning linking bike paths with Cape May have had good results. The addition of West Cape May and Lower Township at future meetings should result in a master plan for linking with the Lower Township path. The hope is to establish a Cape Island Bike Path. The main concern for Cape May Point is the safety of riders on Sunset Boulevard. Increased traffic to Sunset Beach has made it hazardous to ride there as the shoulders are narrow and have vegetation growing into them.

VanHeeswyk reported the Run for the Fallen ceremony is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at Sunset Beach. The following morning, the run will start at the Cape May Lighthouse. For 186 miles from Lower Township north to Holmdel, runners will be stopping to place a marker and a flag in memory of a fallen soldier. In Cape May Point, there is a plaque on West Lake Drive for Capt. Thomas J. Casey, whose family resided in the borough for many years. The time for the placement of a plaque and flag will be around 9:15 a.m. Sept. 24.

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Black Mass R 12:30, 3:30, 6:50, 9:35

The Visit PG13 11:40, 2:00, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

The Perfect Guy PG13 11:30, 2:20, 4:40, 7:40, 9:55

Warm Room PG 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation PG13
12:10, 3:10, 6:40, 9:30

The Gift R 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

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