

Cape May Point exploring options for 5G antenna

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough solicitor Brock Russell discussed with the Board of Commissioners the potential for an ordinance regarding 5G wireless technology during a meeting Dec. 7.

The fifth generation of wireless broadband technology is expected to provide better coverage and faster speeds than the current 4G. It is expected to launch in 2020.

The previous generation, 3G, receives a signal from the nearest phone tower and is used for phone calls, messaging and data. 4G works

similar to 3G but with a faster internet connection.

“One of the issues is that some of the carriers will allow the box to be mounted to the top of the pole, but other requires the box to be attached to the pole, which is not very pleasant to look at,” Russell said.

He suggested to the board that they reference what other towns have done, such as Clark Township, in addition to the option to hire someone as a consultant who could sit in on a work session. Russell said he had a candidate in mind to hire.

“It doesn’t preclude us from regulating wireless, because that franchise agree-

ment is old and goes back to the ’90s and was designed to deal with transmission lines and technology from that era,” Russell said.

Commissioner Robert Mullock asked if there was a possibility of placing just one pole, preferably at the firehouse.

“That way we don’t have these popping up around, since we are only basically less than a half-mile wide,” Mullock said. “If we could put them in an inconspicuous spot that would reach the entire town, that would be a great opportunity since we are so small.”

Russell stated that it is possible that other carriers

might want to put poles in more than one spot in town.

Deputy Mayor Anita Van-Heeswyk stated that she thought the 5G technology poles are a great idea.

“I think having a consultant come would be great. There is a lot of information there,” she said. “I think long term it would be a little short sighted not to spend the money to do this because it has potential.”

Mayor Robert Moffatt asked what the board could have ready in advance before a consultant came into town. Russell said he would look into costs and find a time for the consultant to brief the board members at a

work session. Mullock added that Public Works would be happy to drive a consultant around town.

Commissioners received a plaque recognizing Cape May Point’s bronze certification by Sustainable New Jersey. Green Team Chairwoman Catherine Busch presented the board with the award.

“I’d like to thank Cathy Busch and the Green Team for their leadership,” Mullock said. “They’ve done a great job of something we have been trying to get done for years. You folks came in and got it done.”

The Environmental Commission will have its meeting

to set goals for 2018 at 10 a.m. Wednesday Dec. 13.

“It’s going to be an important meeting for anyone who would like to attend,” Mullock said.

An ordinance to combine the Zoning Board with the Planning Board was introduced. The second reading and hearing of this ordinance are schedule for 6 p.m. Jan. 11.

“We are moving ahead with the merging of the Planning and Zoning boards, and Brock will design that for us,” Moffatt said. “We are working on getting all the information together for the county planning board for the water management.”

Cape Island Home and Gardens

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has been selling Christmas trees for about 18 years, which is about as long as it’s been since she quit her job owning a bed and breakfast to start running Cape Island.

“I didn’t know a plant from a hole in the ground,” she said. “I just like being outside. So I took index cards and memorized everything and then, bingo.”

Bernard would come to buy supplies or plants. After working as a chef and a little time in marketing research, she became a landscaper for 25 years by accident.

“I bought a house out at the Point and could never find anyone to do anything,” Bernard said. “Now I could do the work, but I would have to leave marketing. So I did and I opened up a place called Happy Homes and Gardens where I could build anything from decks to sheds to door knobs. But then I put a beautiful garden in my front yard. Then a neighbor asked, ‘Could you put a garden in for me?’ Next thing you know, I’m a landscaper.”

In the early days, Franklin and Bernard would give business to each other. Eventually they thought it would be a smart move to combine their talents at Cape Island and handle projects together.

One such project was supplying Christmas trees to their faithful clients, ranging from silver-tip Frasier fir, which is traditional for Christmas trees, to Concolor fir, which smells more citrus orange and has longer needles.

“Both have good retention,” Bernard said. “We try to stay away from Douglas and balsam because their needles tend to fall a lot earlier than these do. We have an all-natural environment, which means, unlike trees sold in a lot where all they have to do is get a leaf blower to clean up, we have to keep cleaning by raking leaves and such.”

Franklin and Bernard have their trees shipped



John Alvarez/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Cape Island Home and Gardens also sells lawn ornaments decorated with plants, trees, fruit, berries and even seashells.

to them a week before Thanksgiving from a farm in Quebec or North Carolina. The trees they order are very thirsty. This means if the trees drink a lot of water, they are very freshly cut and not stored until November. It also means they live longer.

“We used to drive up to get them in a U-Haul years ago,” Franklin said with a laugh. “The roads were icy and hilly because we’d pick them up at a distributor in the mountains in Pennsylvania. But it was so much fun.”

“That’s why we stopped and started having them delivered. We’re getting old, so we can’t have that much ‘fun’ anymore,” Bernard added.

Besides the trees, Franklin and Bernard will make and sell wreaths and lawn ornaments made with plants, trees, fruit and even seashells.

“Seashells are big seller,” Bernard said. “We

They are all seashells with a blue and silver theme. With all the sizes and flags and such, it takes me a week to put them together. We also make wreaths for Rotary Park.”

“We also donate a few wreaths and trees to Victorian Manor Nursing Home in North Cape May so their residents can enjoy a touch of Christmas,” Franklin added. “And we donate a few, made with nuts and fruits, to Cold Spring Village for their festivals. We donate wreaths and poinsettias to nonprofits to help them out for the season. It’s a labor of love.”

In fact, according to Bernard, the only complaints made about the wreaths are when people come in to pick theirs up.

“I will be finished with a wreath for one person. Then I will call the customer and tell them they can pick up their wreath before I start another. When the first person comes in to get their wreath, they will see another wreath I’m working on and go, ‘Oh, I like

that one. Can I have that instead?’ It’s very complimentary. But it is also tough to pre-order stuff because the wreaths can be very random.”

But at the end of the day, the hard work Franklin and Bernard do is worth their efforts.

“I have had some of the same customers for 18 years,” Bernard said. “I have been delivering to them since I’ve opened. We have a lot of repeat customers. I can pick their

tree when they walk in from their size and type of tree and everything. I get the same amount of trees because the same people come in every year. It’s wonderful.”

Just like family coming home for the holidays.

Cape Island Home and Garden is located at 720 Broadway in West Cape May. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (609) 884-4210.

make wreaths for the Sandpiper Condominiums down on Beach Drive.

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