

West Cape considers reducing setbacks in commercial zones

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The Board of Commissioners discussed reducing the size of minimum setbacks in West Cape May.

“We have been making adjustments to the code in the past years and with this code in mind, come development concerns in West Cape May,” solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said. “It impacts West Cape May as a whole, like the changes made with increase of vegetation requirements. This is in the same vein for residential zones.

Having closer setbacks or tighter requirements would allow buildings to be closer together in commercial zones, according to

Gillin-Schwartz. “It creates a more walkable downtown feel,” he said. “There are other changes that can be made, but this may help depending on what the commissioners feel is best for the town. It is one piece of a bigger puzzle.”

Mayor Carol Sabo asked if there would be benefit to hiring a planner.

“Yes, it could be beneficial to hire someone to look at the code and town,” Gillin-Schwartz said.

The commissioners requested a traffic study for Park Boulevard with the new portable speed sign.

“We are waiting for the borough to program the speed sign to take speed readings on Park (Boulevard),” engineer Ray Rob-

erts said. “Then with the readings we will be able to address if it qualifies for a four-way stop sign or a signal. I believe it will qualify for stop sign because of bicyclists and pedestrians.”

West Cape May received a municipal aid grant that will be contributed to the cost of the Leaming Avenue project. Bids will be opened Nov. 8.

“We have been talking with residents about the need for sidewalks,” Roberts said. “We are proposing to put out two alternate bids — one for sidewalks on both sides of Leaming, from Park Boulevard to Broadway; the second alternative is only on the north side between Park and Broadway.”

Resident Jimmy Labrus-

ciano spoke to the board about the changes made to the alcoholic beverage control ordinance.

“In 2011, the borough changed the ordinance for stipulating the hours of consumption,” Labrusciano said. “The hours were extended to midnight. There was a petition in town where people did not want extended hours. How did you pass the ordinance?”

“The changes we are making to the ordinance tonight are about the closing provisions,” Clerk Suzanne Schumann said. “It means that employees and customers can remain for one hour after ordering.”

Gillin-Schwartz stated that the ordinance for adoption had provisions

for informational purposes about last call.

“It’s not changing the hours of service,” Gillin-Schwartz said. “Only Friday and Saturdays people can stay until 12 a.m., with no service. On weeknights, they will close at 10 p.m. and people can stay only until 11 p.m.”

Sabo stated that the market is different than it was seven years ago, when the petition for the hours to stay the same was formed.

“For the license, we heard that it needed to be more viable and that meant changing the hours,” Sabo said.

Burke added that the sale of a liquor license brings money to the entire borough.

Sabo reported that the

next step for West Cape May to be inducted into the National Flood Insurance Community Rating System program is to hold a flood insurance seminar. The seminar is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24, at Borough Hall.

The borough is making trees available for fall planting.

“The Shade Tree Commission met last night and we are coming into the fall period where trees can be successfully planted,” Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said. “They are making trees available to residents in the borough.”

Sabo reminded residents that September is suicide awareness month. The Suicide Prevention Lifeline is (800) 273-8255.

Construction of pump station for Roseann Avenue to begin

VILLAS — Equipment is being mobilized to start construction of a pump station as part of the first phase of the Roseann Avenue project.

On Monday, engineer Mark Sray, of Mott MacDonald, said the contractor has begun to mobilize on site for phase one of the

Roseann Avenue project to eliminate flooding in the neighborhood and surrounding areas of North Cape May.

He said the contractor plans to install temporary sheet piles on the site of a future pump station and to start a bypass pumping system.

“He has his seismic survey subcontractor in the area to inspect as they pound the sheet piles in to make sure they’re not exceeding any thresholds there,” Sray said.

The contractor is still in the process of completing 150 shop drawings, he said.

A second permit application has been submitted by the contractor to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the dewatering treatment works. Groundwater in the area has contaminants that must be filtered out before water is dumped into Cox Hall

Creek as part of the dewatering process.

“That’s the last one we’re waiting on for approval before we can start dewatering, actually start constructing,” Sray said.

A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for Friday that will include utility companies to address questions that have arisen in the past few weeks, he said.

Sray said an application for a Coastal Area Facilities Review Act permit for phase three of the project was submitted to the DEP last week. He said his firm is finishing the design for phase three of the project. That phase of the project will be put out for bid at the latest in March 2019, according to Sray. A quick response from the DEP would allow the project to go out to bid sooner, he said.

Township Council ap-

prove resolutions to allow the sale of bonds and notes for \$3.9 million of the more than \$10 million Roseann Avenue project. During public comment, resident Robert Rizzo said \$3.9 million “is a lot of money.”

“There is a neighborhood over there that has been flooding for over 35 years and for once the Township Council is going to step up and do something right for the citizens of this township and fix that problem,” Councilman David Perry said.

Mayor Erik Simonsen said that one stormwater artery serves one-third of North Cape May and branched out to thousands of homes.

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said the township hopes to receive some grant funding for the Roseann Avenue project from the New Jersey Infrastructure Trust Fund.

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TIDES : Sept. 19-26, 2018

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
19	4:40	5:01	10:24	11:16
20	5:33	5:50	11:16	
21	6:19	6:35	12:02	12:03
22	7:01	7:16	12:42	12:46
23	7:39	7:54	1:19	1:27
24	8:16	8:31	1:54	2:06
25	8:51	9:07	2:28	2:44
26	9:25	9:42	3:01	3:23

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