Raising valuable properties

Cape May OKs new standards for elevating historic homes

By J ACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a National Historic Landmark City, elevating a historic home is a complex and costly proposition, and to lower flood insurance rates can present a challenge.

Cape May’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and City Council are addressing the issue with new standards for raising historic homes.

At a Feb. 16 virtual council meeting, council approved new standards for flood adaptation for homes in the historic district. The enabling ordinance states it is anticipated in future years the flooding exposure of Cape May will be increased due to climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coastal area, severe rainstorms, and high tides.

It notes elevating a building can significantly mitigate the historic character of individual properties and the surrounding streetscape and elevating an historic building should be appropriate to use in Cape May.

However, Cape May City, with advice from the Historic Preservation Commission has concluded the best policy for long term preservation of historic structures is to support projects owner who wish to mitigate flood exposure, at the City’s expense.

The ordinance states the selected treatment for flood mitigation should always be one that minimizes the changes to the building’s historic character and that any elevations should be appropriate to be used in a rehabilitation project in Cape May.

Cape May City, with advice from the HPC and City Council are addressing the issue with new standards for raising historic homes.

Wind farm’s benefits to blow across region

Small-business grants available

By CRAIG S. SCHNEIK
Cape May Star and Wave

Finding is available for small businesses in southern New Jersey to get in on the ocean floor of the wind-energy industry.

A group of business leaders, gathered online Wednesday, Feb. 17, with representatives from the National Renewable Energy Trust to learn about the funding and how local entrepreneurs can take advantage of the program.

In the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities approved a project by Danish wind-energy giant Ørsted to build the first utility-scale offshore wind farm off the coast of southern New Jersey.

Dubbed Ørsted’s Wind Farm, the project will include hundreds of turbines 13 miles offshore generating 1,050 MW able to power 3.2 million homes by 2035. The project is expected to be fully powered onshore by 2029.

The New Jersey Offshore Wind Energy Trust, a $400 million fund aimed at ensuring that the state’s offshore wind industry is developed in a sustainable and inclusive way — through small businesses.

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COVID numbers falling, still above level from fall

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

New cases of COVID-19 continue to decline off the Cape May Peninsula during January and remain well above the levels from last fall.

As of Sunday, Feb. 21, the number of active cases had dropped to just over 300, compared to more than 1,000 just a few weeks ago, but still much higher than the levels in the summer.

In Cape May itself, the number is 23 active cases or 1.7 per 10,000 residents.

There are 312 active cases in the county on Sunday, with the most — 73 each — in Lower Township and Middle Township, 56 in Upper Township and 37 in Ocean City.

Other active cases include Wildwood (10), Woodbine and North Wildwood (12 each), Dennis Township, Cape May (25), Lower Township, South Wildwood and West Wildwood (1 each).

There are no active cases in Cape May Point and Avalon.

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The proposed budget increases revenues for 2021 were an unknown.

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During a virtual Board of Education meeting Wednesday, Feb. 17, board member Anita DeSatnick said she wished the school could let the high school open team up.

She said between the board and the American Red Cross requested the use of cafeterias for blood drives.

Board member Dr. James Palombo said the school could let the high school open team up.

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CEO Neil Trump said the Development Fund Budget was similar to 2020. The Beach Utility is increasing less than 2 percent due to an increase in the minimum and many cuts cancelled in 2020. He said looking at the budget for 2021, the school could let the high school open team up.

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