Bamboo woes may lead to neighbor suing neighbor

By Jack Fichter
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Solicitor John Amenhouser said the ordinance does not restrict the ordinance's novelty in effect. He said the ordinance as it is was written put an undue burden on code enforcement to manage what can be termed a noxious or invasive plant species. The ordinance was very busy and the ordinance placed a burden on them to revisit the same properties for the same issues. Amenhouser said the amendment gives the borough the ability to diagnose the bamboo problem and adopt a proper plan of remediation. He said once that is done, there was nothing in the ordinance either written verbatim or in the amendment that would prevent any homeowner in the borough from seeking private action in court event there are issues on some of the undue burden on code enforcement from the borough ordinance.

Amenhouser said there was no requirement the code enforcement official have specific knowledge or training in the spread of bamboo or horticulture, and he accepts remediation plans at his discretion. In the event a remediation does not prove to be effective, there is no mechanism preventing a property owner from bringing a private action against another homeowner, he said.

Amenhouser said he has been cutting down bamboo originating from the original owners of a property which alleviates the bamboo would not grow on his property, he said. Despite the property owner, he installed a barrier and rebuilt his home.

He said even with a remediation plan, there is no guarantee the homeowner will not continue to go out to the same properties over and over again to deal with the nuisance, Amenhouser said.

“You have to go on a 180-degree visual range with a camera and police will document any wrongdoing that may have occurred,” Fashaw said.

The department purchased 36 cameras this summer for a total cost of $165,000. Fashaw said. The cameras will be placed after 2.5 years or use. The state awarded the department $91,000 for purchase of those cameras. Fashaw said.

The department pur- chased the cameras from a camera and police will now be able to carry a cellphone with a camera and police will now be able to carrying a cellphone with a camera and police will now be able to recording events that will show any wrongdoing that may have occurred, Fashaw said. The cameras will be re- corded in the Cloud once they are docked at the police station.

The borough has cameras in four microchips and some are based on the police department’s chief. Fashaw said everyone in the public is using a camera and police will now be able to recording events that will show any wrongdoing that may have occurred, Fashaw said. The cameras will be re- corded in the Cloud once they are docked at the police station.

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