BARRIERS THROW BEACH TRIATHLON INTO CAOS

Barriers give Beach Avenue look of construction zone

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CAPE MAY — Bathers were put in place to allow outdoor seating on the sidewalk for doing business during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are in place along Washington Street but according to Mayor Chuck Little, once barriers were in place, some stores along the street noticed a decline in sales.

“What they are indicating is people think it is a construction area, they are scared to come in and we need some kind of indication that they are open,” he said.

Little said his biggest concern was businesses are open. He said some businesses attempted to place a sign on the construction zone but the city is prohibiting such action.

Councilman Stacy Warren proposed removing some of the barriers past Southend Deli and those outside seating is in place.

Councilman Shane Miser said he had received complaints from people trying to walk along the street. He said he believes the construction zone look is coming from the fencing.

Some of the restaurants have used sand fencing, Councilman Zack Mullock said.

Miser said some restaurants placed a sign in the fencing and City Manager Jerry Lewis said the signs become loose since there is no secure way to attach them.

“It became a safety issue and we had to remove them because bicyclists are exposed to the right and a bicycle pedal or foot could have lodged in that and caused an accident,” he said. “That’s why they were removed.”

Lear said the primary goal of the barriers is to provide a walkway because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but if the fishing is not permitted on the ferry, it would not take place, he said.

Del Monte said.

If 1,100 or 1,200 people are interested in participating in the swim portion, “If only 300 people are interested, we’re only going to put up 120 and 150 people,” he said. “If 600 people are interested, that would take us over the limit of 500, that means we need two boats.”

If $1,200 or 1,250 people are interested in the swim event, a third ship would be available Aug. 5. A total of 400 to 450 would be placed on the ferry at one time, Del Monte said.

He said all the safety protocols will be in place that the Delaware River and Bay Authority has in effect for ferry passengers with twice as many people on a full car deck, bicycles only would be permitted on the ferry, no spectators. A mandatory screening would be completed before checking in.

The event is expected to be made by noon Aug. 5.

Final plans will not be made until the last participant responds, he said.

Social distancing will be maintained with everyone on the ferry wearing a mask. Del Monte said and if 100 or only 100 people respond positively, the event would not take place, he said.

A final decision on the event’s fate is expected to be made Aug. 5.