Cold Spring Village seeks salvation in microbrewery

By Jack Fischer
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD-SPRING — In a time when people tend to give up for macronutrients, the Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV) Foundation is seeking a unique solution here.

Lower Township Planning Board member Louis Conley, with his wife, Stacey, told the board story of the Village.

Located to the site, with HCSV representation, representing HCSV, the village was a pre-prohibition-prohibition-use-conformity use in the zone and the microbrewery required additional variance. Planning Board member Karol Ann Beck noted the Lower Township Planning Board also requires a licensed brewer from the State Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control, he said.

Anne Salvatore, executive director of HCSV and principal of its board of directors, said the village was started in 1972 as a living history museum in 35 acres on Seashore Road originally by herself and her parents. Old country buildings were relocated to the site, with HCSV opening in 1981, she said.

The Salvatores operated the village until 1985, when they donated it to the county. In 1992, the county gave the village the building the museum business. At the time, the village had buildings 25 buildings, Salvatore said. A nonprofit corporation was formed. A financial subsidy from the county is ending.

Salvatore said the village operates on donations, memberships, gift revenue and special events. The gift side was slow during the recess, so it needed another source of revenue.

"The thought was we were able to possibly have a small microbrewery, that it would add to the ambience of the village," Salvatore said. "If brewing were the thing since 1858, hour was the biggest alcoholic drink in the country.

With the assistance of John Ryan, on architectural help, a barn was located on Route 514. Salvatore described the building as an English style three-bay barn with a heavy timber frame. A later addition to the barn will be located "nowhere near the barn," Kaufman said.

An addition would be added to the rear of the barn that would include handicapped-accessible restroom, storage and brewhouse, Kaufman said. The barn would be located "nowhere near the barn," Kaufman said.

"It will be open to all of the visitors," the interior character will be "very similar," he said. "It will have wide-board floors, you will have handcrafted tables and chairs.

"You'll be able to see all of the process of the old barns, the entire character will be very similar," he said. "It will have wide-board floors, you will have handcrafted tables and chairs."

In Ward One, Conrad received 44 percent of the vote with 913 votes over incumbent Tom Conrad with 558, 31 percent, and candidate Joe H collecting 232 votes, 11 percent.

In Ward One Bill Rocco received 1,065 votes, 55 percent. Sollie received 940 votes.

"I want to thank the people of Ward One. I did a lot of work and I'm happy with the results," said Conrad.

He said he toured every street in the ward while campaigning.

In Ward Two, Perry unopposed independent candidate received 3,615 votes, 92 percent. Sollie received 250 votes.

"We'll regroup and be back," said Beck noted the Republican leadership was no television commercial with the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of listeners to get out 20,000 voters.

"It's more than Republicans, it's about the village," said Beck. "We're a hometown choo choo to Villas."

"It's not true. What he said was "You could win a seat in the county," Beck said.

He said he would work with county officials to maintain the balance in funding.

On the Lower Cape May Regional High School Board issue with the candidate position on changing the regional high school funding formula from one based on student attendance to one based on student enrollment.

"My position has been for the past 25 years it's unfair," Beck said. "There should be a big steal on and people and no one cares about that problem.

"The Lower Cape May Regional would be located next to Townsend, we welcome everyone," Beck said. "Everything adds to the balance in the education of kids.

"I don't think you could win a seat in the county," Beck said.

"You're close. What he said was "You could win a seat in the county," Beck said.