HPC OKs demolition of Jetty Motel, plan for new one

By RACHEL SHUBIN Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Historic Preservation Commission approved demolition of the Jetty Motel on Second Avenue and conceptual renderings for a new hotel.

During a meeting Nov. 20, Cape Jetty LLC principal Emmanuel DeMutis was seeking a demolition permit for the existing structure and conceptual approval to build a new hotel.

The HPC approved a demolition permit in February 2006, but the permit was not acted upon and expired. Cape Jetty LLC is currently seeking the same approval. The building has not changed since 2006.

Architect Steven Fenwick gave the HPC a presentation on the existing building

and future plans. The existing Jetty Motel building does not have any historic, architectural, cultural or aesthetic significance," Fenwick said. "The proposed hotel is a permitted use within the zone and conforms to all the zoning requirements. The existing

zoning nonconformance."

Fenwick stated the Jetty Motel represented a lifestyle rather than structural significance.

The removal of the building would not be detrimental to the integrity of the property or the historic district or public interest,' he said. "There is no uncommon craftsmanship, texture or material incorporated into the structure. The retention of the build-

ing would not increase property values, promote business or contribute to other aspects of the public interest, he said. The present building is structurally sound and does not contain attractions or amenities to induce the current industry, according to Fenwick.

The Jetty Motel was built in the late 1950s. It is a masonry building with a stucco finish, vinyl siding in the front, a flat roof, parking and a swimming pool, he noted.

The proposed building is similar to the one that was previously conceptually approved in 2006. It would be three stories of habitable motel does contain some space with parking below Fenwick said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE Cape May's Historic Preservation Commission determined that 'removal of the building would not be detrimental to the integrity of the property or the historic district.'

and on part of the second floor. The base of the building would be brick veneer, poured in place concrete structure. Plans call for brick openings arched with lattice enclosure to provide parking ventilation and screening from public view. The building conforms to the zoning regulations as to height. It would include a restaurant.

"The prior conceptual approval had three townhouse units on the property that is now a single-family home that was subdivided in the interim years and a new single-family home was approved for that site,"

The proposed building has been reduced in scale. Materials in the conceptual drawings include shingle as the primary siding material, cement board in addition, and the roof would be a mix of fiberglass asbestos shingle. The turrets and gables would be a synthetic slate. The windows would have crowns and traditional trim work, and would be further discussed with the board.

The conceptual rendering includes a proposal for metal railings with a decorative circular motif. The columns would be trimmed in a traditional fashion. A continuous decorative band would separate the bottom

and top of the building.

A landscape architectural plan is scheduled to be discussed at the next HPC meeting. The plan calls for landscaping in the back of the hotel to shield it from the house.

HPC Chairman Warren Coupland asked if the shingles were going to be a cedar shake. Fenwick said there would be a texture and pattern that varies with cement board.

"We've been looking for the softer material to run horizontal to the building instead of perpendicular," Coupland said. "The perpendicular makes it look like piano keys, more of a suburban look."

The board agreed that the provided information was helpful and asked questions regarding the lighting and sidewalk, and additional information will be provided and discussed at the next

"We are a stickler for

details on the final," Coupland said. "We prefer the hardy board as planks to have a flat finish and framing around the windows. We had been urged by the **Environmental Commission** to use energy-efficient materials. There are synthetic slate roofs with solar panels that still look like slate roofs and we would ask you to look at that and see if that would be a possibility for your roof.'

HPC member Bonnie Pontin said the proposed design was a beautiful rendition and would be an uplifting change for that end of the beach.

The Cape May Planning Board granted preliminary site approval for this project and the applicant returned to the board for a one-year extension on the preliminary approval, which expires in June 2018. They will seek final site plan approval from the Planning

Injuries declined in summer 2017 -

Continued from Page A1

were rough. The committee has the opportunity to update beach safety brochures distributed throughout the summer, Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said.

Committee member Patricia Hendricks, who is a city councilwoman, said the Cape May Guidebooks may contain a small beach safety component, perhaps an explanation of the Beach Patrol's safety flag warnings. DeSatnick said it was suggested the beach safety QR code be included in the guidebook, which is a joint project of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May and the

city of Cape May.
Rife said he would like to work with Lower Cape May Regional High School, which developed the QR code, to add more information. When a thunderstorm is looming over the city, he said he would like to have the capability to warn beachgoers by their phones and a beachfront-wide public address system expected to be installed in 2018.

He said beach taggers did a very good job last year of handing out beach safety brochures. Rife suggested the taggers inform beachgoers they can scan the QR code with their smart phone to receive an alert. DeSatnick said an educational process on the QR code needs to be put in place for the taggers and lifeguards.

"One of our goals here has been trying to raise awareness by putting the brochures not only at the entrances (to the beach) but also in hotels, B&Bs, etc.," Rife said.

He said having beachgoers with smart phones scan the QR code would be a great outreach.

DeSatnick said he did not believe every hotel in the city had beach safety brochures last summer. He said signs for the QR code were placed on the beaches in August.

City Manager Neil Young said U.S.D.A. stated the P.A. system project qualifies for a grant. He said the next step would be to complete a full grant application with U.S.D.A. to determine how much funding the city could receive for the project.

"It's a competitive grant and it will depend based

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on all other applications what we'll actually receive," he said.

Grants Consultant Jim Rutala has completed the application. Young said city could proceed with the bidding process but not award a contract for the PA system until it is determined how much the city would receive from the USDA. Young said the grant application was for \$220,000 but he believed the city would receive \$50,000 at most. The cost of the beachfront PA system is estimated at \$400,000, according to DeSatnick.

Young said City Council approved a bond ordinance for a good portion of the project.

DeSatnick said the com-

mittee has been asked to provide input on an update of the city's master plan which could include a "wish list" for the beach. He said the committee would make that one of their priorities in January and report to the group working on a master plan

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