Panel suggests multiple changes to Lafayette park plans

By JAKE FOSTER
Cap May Pie and Wise

CAPE MAY — The city’s Summer Streets Board Advisory Committee may allow the original plans for phase three of the park by flipping the position of the baseball diamond to another location in the same area. In addition, earlier plans to make Lafayette Street a part of the park may be cut-prohibitive.

The committee, which was dealing with remodelling of wetlands on the east portion of the site from the 1950s, was left behind from a coastal area plan that operated on the property.

During a meeting May 11, city engineer Tom Thornton, of MD MacDonald, said multiple types of wetlands exist on the property. He listed the types of habitat, including wet prairies, swamps, marshes, lagoons, high marsh, highland marsh, maritime forest and maritime wetlands.

The committee is also considering a plan for a long nature trail. The trail would be a semicircular elevated pathway, Thornton said. It would be an alternative to using the berm, Thornton said. He questioned what officials deemed as the best choice, he said.

Mayor Shaine Meier said the committee seemed to be the same subject discussed many years to complete the work, partially funded by the county and completely funded by the county.

Committee member Mark Pask, who is also a member of the city’s Shade Tree Commission, suggested a plan for the maritime forest and maritime wetlands under a semicircular elevated pathway above the tidal marsh, Thornton said. He noted a berm on the property originally on the baseball diamond.

He also noted that a sign that flipped the baseball diamond and changed the name of the street.

Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee Chairman Mike Jones said these plans show the same thing of what officials deemed the best choice.

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