

**OCTOBER 8, 2019  
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Mayor Moffatt at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Mayor who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Moffatt, Commissioner Mullock and Commissioner vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Steve O'Connor, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor Brock Russell.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Lake Lily: The pathway color selected was not in stock so the work will be done this coming weekend instead. The landscaping contract can't be awarded until October 29<sup>th</sup> when a bond ordinance is adopted to cover the additional cost. Administrator O'Connor will contact Open Space to notify them since the project was supposed to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. He didn't anticipate any objection given the sizable portion of funding the Borough has contributed.

Central/Pavilion/Ocean: The work has begun, although there were some setbacks with the piping. The work should be completed by the end of October/beginning of November. Commissioner Mullock emphasized the important of the project to the Borough's flood mitigation efforts.

**COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)**

Fig Tree in Borough right-of-way at corner of Oxford and East Lake: Commissioner vanHeeswyk expressed the concern that the outflow pipe runs under the tree and whoever removes it might damage the piping. Public Works Supervisor Bill Gibson asserted the outflow pipe is actually toward the middle of the road. The only near the tree is part of a French drain. Mrs. vanHeeswyk recommended the Borough request insurance and a hold harmless agreement from whoever does the work. Mr. Gibson has blank forms he uses when contractors come into town to do work that he will use in this instance.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk announced the Borough will be switching its website hosting company in January due to JIF recommendations. The switch will not be very expensive and the annual fee will be the same as the current provider. The new site will provide more flexibility and the ability to reach out to people, rather than being a passive source of information. Mrs. vanHeeswyk also reported on the recent Coastal Coalition meeting. The main discussion was about raising homes and she offered to provide information to anyone interested in raising their home and applying for FEMA money to do it.

Commissioner Mullock reported on the Sunset Boulevard information session held by the County. The bike path project was started with the Cape May Point Environmental Commission, gained the support of West Cape May, Cape May City, and Lower Township. Now that County has incorporated the Borough's preferred solution into the proposed Sunset Boulevard roadway project. The Borough must emphasize the importance of having this entire project. Commissioner vanHeeswyk was concerned how easements on the south side might affect Borough-owned property. She was also told by the County Engineer that several private easements will be necessary.

Mr. Mullock asserted the county only needs one easement with a private property because the right-of-way is very wide and the pavement will be shifted to accommodate where necessary. The Borough-owned property that would be affected is minimal. The County will take into account public input before preparing a final plan. Next, Commissioner Mullock addressed the hydrant flushing which was completed in a single day. A notice was published in the Star & Wave and posted on the Borough website, but there were complaints that people were not aware of it. Flushing is required twice a year to keep the pipes clean and allow the chlorine to work more efficiently.

**REVIEW OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:** The Clerk reviewed the items for the Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Commissioner vanHeeswyk stressed the importance of the resolution supporting the post office and keeping the Borough's individual zip code. It also calls for having home delivery if the post office itself left the Point. Congressman Van Drew who has agreed to support the Borough's stance.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Catherine Busch commended the Borough on pursuing a new website. Many of the Green Team's Sustainability actions require digital communication, so it will be a welcome change. Ms. Busch offered her assistance, having experience with websites for two organizations

Mary Kelly asked if the website would have text capacity, as Hoboken does through Nixel, feeling people now use texting more than email. The Borough wasn't certain whether the new system provides for text messaging. Ms. Kelly asked if there has been any movement on a tree preservation ordinance as a result of the information she shared at the August meeting. The Environmental Commissioner will be discussing the topic at its meeting the next day, but the Chair had not seen the Seagirt ordinance sent by Ms. Kelly.

Bill Gibson announced the Borough has purchased more trees to be planted on the dunes , mostly red cedars and oaks because they've been more successfully grown. The Taxpayers Association will put together a volunteer group to keep the trees hydrated so they can thrive. Mr. Gibson explained that usually it's salt spray that kills them, not lack of water. Mrs. vanHeeswyk suggested planting them on the backside of the dune to protect them from the spray.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm on motion of Commissioner Mullock, seconded by Commissioner vanHeeswyk.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

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Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

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Commissioner Mullock

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Commissioner vanHeeswyk

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Mayor Moffatt