

MAY 7, 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

Westside Drainage project: Bids were opened earlier in the day and will be reviewed by the Engineer. The apparent low bid was just over \$320,000. The engineer's estimate was \$385,000, and the Borough received a \$175,000 grant, leaving a balance to be paid by the Borough of roughly \$145,000.

Lake Lily Bulkhead: The project should be completed by the end of May. The original portion is already in with the exception of the wooden cap; the 120' extension will take a little longer. The "dead men" will be driven in shortly, preliminary testing went well. The plantings will be finalized with a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission and the Borough Engineer based on the input received during the April presentation before the Environmental Commission. The plan will then be forwarded to the governing body for final approval. The pathway portion of the project will have to be bid out. Commissioner vanHeeswyk made reference to mention of the pathway being the color of the woodwork on the bulkhead. She felt the color should match the aged wood, rather than fresh wood. Catherine Busch stated that would be part of the bidding process and the governing body would decide at that time. Commissioner Mullock thought the path could possibly be made to match the bulkhead material, rather than the wood cap.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Letter of Support of Franklin Street School Restoration: Commissioners Mullock and vanHeeswyk attended the May 1st presentation of the proposed plan which includes County library space, Center for Community Arts space, and community activity space. Commissioner vanHeeswyk was very pleased with how thoughtfully project designer Michael Calafati has treated the subject of segregation in his proposed plan. Commissioner Mullock commented on how the project fits so well with the other historical properties within the same block including, the AME church, the parsonage and the Steven Smith house. In fact, the land for the school was sold reasonably by the Macedonia Baptist church so their children would have a good school. Mayor Moffatt was unable to attend the presentation but spoke with Mr. Calafat, as well as Mayor Lear, and was in favor of the project. Commissioner vanHeeswyk made a motion, seconded by Mayor Moffatt, in favor of sending a letter of support. The motion was carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Commissioner Mullock reported on the driveway in the right-of-way at 506 Ocean Avenue. He explained he was concerned with the property owner going over the lot coverage amount, but was advised that had been rectified. In light of that, he did not have any objection to the size of the driveway in the right-of-way. In person, he felt the driveway was not as large as it appeared in photos, which a nice amount of yard on each side. Commissioner Mullock made a motion, seconded by Mayor Moffatt, to approve the driveway in the right-of-way as it is. The motion was carried on roll call vote: Moffatt and Mullock in favor, vanHeeswyk opposed.

The final mock-up of the new bike route map for Cape Island was unveiled. The bike path committee did a great job with the mapping and information on the fold-out map, which will be available throughout the island.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk spoke to a recent Philly.com article the said St. Pete's building was originally the kindergarten building from the centennial fair. Ms. vanHeeswyk worked on the historic designation of St. Pete's and although there is solid evidence the building was from the centennial fair, there was no information saying it was the kindergarten building as stated in the article. She will follow up on the matter. Mainly, she wanted to warn people the article is not necessarily accurate.

Mayor Moffatt, at the request of the Dennis Township mayor, reminded everyone to avoid speeding when traveling to the county facility in Dennis Township. They are having an issue with speeding. Dr. Moffatt also handed out a draft of a letter that Mike Keosky would like to send to the County Engineer to that him for coming to the last work session and to address additional concerns he has. Administrator O'Connor wasn't sure the Borough should as for changes after the plans were agreed to and a resolution adopted. The additional items were ones that were already approved by the Planning Board, but there was some concern that he shouldn't sign on behalf of that board without getting their express approval. Commissioner vanHeeswyk doesn't want to see the projects already approved held up because of new suggestions that she sees as a Phase 2 situation. Administrator O'Connor agreed to speak with Mr. Keosky regarding the matter before addressing the suggestions with the County Engineer.

Mayor Moffatt advised the Code Enforcement Officer is sending notices to the realtors about signs in the rights-of-way. Commissioner vanHeeswyk suggested the signs be removed, as she was told the Borough is permitted to remove signs on its property. Mayor Moffatt agreed to have it done.

REVIEW OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: The Borough Clerk reviewed the agenda items for the May 9th regular meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Catherine Busch advised the Environmental Commission will be reviewing the Rain Garden design and planting list as provided by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension at

its May 8th meeting. She would like to present it to the governing body for approval at its regular meeting on Thursday evening. The Borough received a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant to help with the purchase of plants and materials for the project. The vast majority of work and expenses are done by students of Rutgers, as part of their educational program. Ms. Busch also advised the Green Team and the Environmental Commission are both interested in wildlife education and suggested maybe putting a sign asking people to “Give Wildlife a Brake” (or something similar) under the Borough’s main sign on Lighthouse and Sunset when there isn’t a specific event to advertise. Also, since Lighthouse is a County road, she will contact them to see if they could provide signage along the road.

Connie Campanella asked with the bulkhead extension is expected to be complete. Commissioner Mullock thought maybe by mid-June, although they are hoping for the end of May.

Emelia Oleson reported there were 37 adults and 2 children at the spring beach cleanup. Over 200 pounds of trash was collected. The amount of fishing line and cigarette filters was way down. The most unusual items were conch crates, which look like commercial dishwasher racks. The commissioners thanked Ms. Oleson for all her hard work on another great cleanup.

Helen Chezem asked if the bulkhead caps are going to be perpendicular or parallel to the water. They will be perpendicular and will be completely installed by summer.

Mary Kelly expressed frustration with the property next door that has been built entirely using generators, sometimes as many as 3 at once. The work has been ongoing for almost a year without having a saw pole, which is required in the Borough’s Construction Site Standards. Commissioner vanHeeswyk advised the matter was put in the Code Enforcement Officer’s hands once the Borough was made aware of the oversight. She warned that having a saw pole doesn’t guarantee contractors won’t use generators. Ms. Kelly thinks there should be restrictions on generators in the upcoming ordinance. She is aware of other towns where many homeowners have emergency generators and she thought the Borough should be proactive in dealing with them. Lastly, Ms. Kelly spoke on contact she’s had with the construction office where they have not been responsive to her questions. Commissioner vanHeeswyk suggested she direct questions to her since it is her department and she will be sure to provide answers. Ms. Kelly explained her questions were about the process of how certain construction activities and inspections are handled. Ms. vanHeeswyk again advised her the best way to get answers is to direct questions to her as the commissioner in charge. Catherine Busch stated it isn’t clear to the average person who to call about most things, but if the Commissioner is giving direction, it should be followed. Helen Chezem agreed that if there is a concern, particularly about things being done under cover of night, it is best to call the Commissioners to get it stopped.

Tom Maye asked how the bike route would be identified. There will be no signs, just the maps. He also asked that any effort to save the convent include a parking plan.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm on motion of Commissioner Mullock, seconded by Commissioner vanHeeswyk.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Mullock

Commissioner vanHeeswyk

Mayor Moffatt