

JULY 9, 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: Mr. O'Connor reported he spoke with Rich Hluchan, the attorney who represents the Sister of St. Joseph. Mr. Hluchan advised him the matter has been set aside at this time. He will reach out to Mr. O'Connor when the Sisters are ready to resume consideration of the future of St. Mary's by the Sea.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Request to Vacate a Portion of Central Avenue: The Board of Commissioner consider the request but determined it was not in the Borough's best interest to vacate the end of the street adjacent to the dunes and beach. The Commissioners felt it is important to maintain the ability to access the beach and dunes for the safety of the Borough and its residents.

Commissioner Mullock reported the bulkhead project is finishing up. Once the cap is finished, the manhole will be replaced and the concrete drain will be installed. Meanwhile the silt barrier will be taken down and a temporary barrier will be erected to keep material from washing into the street, and keep turtles from crossing the street. The Borough Engineer is working on bids and specs for the porous concrete pathway. Stakes will be placed to determine where the path will be placed and once done, Mr. Mullock welcomed input. Lastly, he showed a photo of how public works spent July 4th – repairing a leak at Yale and Coral.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk disputed a statement in a letter she received that asserted the Borough's elected officials had difficulty maintaining Lake Lily, which resulted in the Friends of Lake Lily taking over the care. She clarified that the lake was under control when Mayor Stanger was in charge and there were plans in place to continue the same program. She was thankful for Friends of Lake Lily and the work of the volunteers and would like to continue to work with them. Mrs. vanHeeswyk also commented on the death of a recent resident whose family has been in Cape May Point for 76 years. His death brought to mind the fact that the character of Cape May Point is in the people who live here and love the town, whose families return and purchase homes of their own.

Mayor Moffatt reported lifeguard Ben Swan responded to an after-hours emergency at the State Park and saved the life of a child. The lifeguards continue to monitor Coral Avenue to see if it can reopen. The women's lifeguard challenge will be Wednesday, July 31st starting at St. Pete's beach. Dr. Moffatt also reported the

County MUA is making changes to recycling that will be effective October 1st. More information will be forthcoming. He stated he has gotten many positive emails concerning the upcoming ordinances about construction activities. Lastly, he commented on a fascinating article in the *New York Times* entitled “A Rising Threat to History” with information about how to protect your home from flooding.

REVIEW OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: The Clerk reviewed the agenda items for the July 11th regular meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Helen Chezem asked if the recycling changes will change the cans that Commissioner Mullock plans to buy. They will not.

Connie Campanella thanked the Borough for adding a public comment period to the beginning of Thursday’s regular meeting agenda. She then asked if the Borough had an answer as to whether it’s prohibition against fishing in Lake Lily is in accordance with State Law. Solicitor Russell had not yet researched that. Commissioner vanHeeswyk advised the NJDEP, which governs the matter, is well aware of the Borough’s policy and has not objected. Commissioner Mullock explained the importance of Lake Lily as the last freshwater body on the headlands.

Catherine Busch stated she believes public access laws have to do with tidal waters, not necessarily freshwater.

Dick Saari wanted to verify that the walkways at Lake Lily will be porous material, not regular concrete. Commissioner Mullock confirmed it will be porous and the bids are being drafted and should be ready in the next few weeks. Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked if perhaps the barrier should be left up a little longer and the ends roped off to keep people out of the construction site until the plantings are completed. Commissioner Mullock agreed and will keep them up and put up signs to keep out.

Catherine Bush announced the Borough Hall raingarden will be installed the following day by Rutgers staff and interns with the assistance of Public Works. The Environmental Commission will work on preparing educational materials about it and hopes to have a seminar on raingardens in the fall. The Borough’s share of the project is being funded partially through a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant. The Green Team is going to include emergency communication information in the upcoming tax bill mailing.

Clerk Wallace introduced Patrick McCarry, who will be interning with the Borough this summer.

Sandy Allison commented on the dumpster at the Lake Lily construction site not being covered. She also worried that there are many companies that claim to do porous paving and they’re not all the same. She wants to be sure the bids will be for

the type of material we want and the installation will be done by the appropriate people, not uncertified subcontractors. Ms. Allison also complained that trash is out of control all over town and something needs to be done about it. She realizes renters are a large part of the problem, but feels some enforcement needs to be done. She'd like to see some educational materials sent out to all property owners and is willing to help with it. There was some discussion about how different people handle the trash for their rentals. Commissioner Mullock reiterated his plan to purchase covered recycling containers for residents to use in order to save recycling. Commissioner vanHeeswyk felt it was an enforcement issue. Ms. Allison agrees enforcement needs to be done to get compliance and feels the uniform recycling can is a good idea. Lastly, she asked if the slope down to the beach at the Alexander beach entrance could be made more gradual and the split rail fence be put back up. Commissioner Mullock will have those concerns addressed.

Helen Chezem suggested code enforcement contact owners when renters aren't following regulations with regard to trash. After giving a warning, then a summons should be issued. Solicitor Russell provided information to Commissioner Mullock on how Ventnor is addressing these types of issues that may give some ideas. There was discussion about specifying the number of cans that people can have. Mr. Russell spoke of a town that specifies the can that can be used and limits the number. Any trash not put out in that can does not get picked up. Ms. Chezem objected to the idea of limiting cans. Commissioner vanHeeswyk suggested doing more research into how it can be addressed.

Mayor Moffatt has had residents offer to assist with Code Enforcement on a voluntary basis. Mr. Russell stated that isn't possible, the person would have to be a public officer of the Borough. Dr. Moffatt mentioned several places where trash cans are being kept at the curb in violation of the code and thought a letter should be sent. Commissioner vanHeeswyk recommended the Code Enforcement Officer deal with it.

Commissioner Mullock praised the success of the bike parade and Civic Club bazaar over the holiday weekend and thank everyone involved.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 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