

MARCH 10, 2020
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

Pavilion/Ocean/Central Roadwork: Final paving is expected to begin at the end of March.

Bump out at E. Lake and Lighthouse: Public Works has finished removing asphalt in the shoulder for the E. Lake Avenue bump out and has put up temporary markers. The Engineer is working with the County to do the final design base done at the last work session. Coral Avenue will be done next. Commissioner Mullock would like to have some landscaping, with native materials and low-shrubs along the curb line, then have a natural path closer to the tree line for bikes to use. Commissioner Mullock made a motion, seconded by Commissioner vanHeeswyk and approved unanimously on roll call, to approve the idea and send it to the Environmental Commission for suggestions on plantings.

5G Antenna in Public Right-of-Way: The applicant sent a response saying none of the alternative options suggested. Commissioner vanHeeswyk stated the location she suggested was not the location the company reviewed. She would like to ask them to consider the correct location in the grassy area near the remote lot for the State Park. Commissioner vanHeeswyk made a motion, seconded by Mayor Moffatt and carried unanimously on roll call, to pre-approve the location near the remote parking area closest to Borough Hall for the 5G antenna on Lighthouse Avenue.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

COVID-19: Mayor Moffatt passed out information on the coronavirus including a pamphlet from the County Health Department. Governor Murphy declared a state of emergency yesterday. Mayor Moffatt did not want anyone to make light of the situation and felt the Borough must act in the best interest of the community to keep people safe. There are many people in the community with illnesses and underlying health concerns. The Planning Board may not be able to meet this month. Commissioner vanHeeswyk wondered what effect that would have on pending applications. Solicitor Russell thought leeway may be given by the state under the circumstances. Commissioner Mullock the impact will be financial as well as health related. He thought there may become the need to have food and supplies delivered to homes of at-risk residents and a way for them to reach out with their needs. Mr. Mullock asked Public Works to order safety outfits and masks and advised the employees not to enter

properties at this time. The Commissioners agreed to move all future work session to the fire house to allow proper social distancing.

Request for Borough Support of New Jersey Wildlife Management Plan: Catherine Busch joined the Board to present the request which is an initiative of the Green Team, a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission, to earn points toward Sustainable Jersey certification. She reviewed the draft Wildlife Management Plan as well as the list of vulnerable species found (or possibly found) in the Borough that would be covered by the plan. The purpose of the plan is to spell out how the Borough will manage public lands to support endangered or threatened wildlife. Some items include controlling feral cats, keeping dogs off the beach during certain times, minimizing beach raking of the wrackline, minimizing runoff into Lake Lily, etc. Paula Massanari has written something for the Taxpayers Bulletin to increase public awareness about runoff and how it can effect he health of the lake. Commissioner vanHeeswyk was especially concerned about the use of fertilizers by property owners. Ms. Busch agreed that the Borough needs to better discourage that and well as the use of pesticides. All commissioners endorsed the plan and thanked Ms. Busch, the Green Team and the Environmental Commission for their great work. A resolution will need to be adopted to approve the plan, and then it would have to be distributed to key people. Commissioner vanHeeswyk would like to see something in zoning regulations that would prohibit lawn around stormdrains, but instead have that area planted with native species that could act as a buffer around them to help filter out pollutants. Catherine agreed it was an excellent idea that could be looked into. She thought perhaps the Rutgers staff, who did the rain garden, would be able to assist with that.

REVIEW OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: The Clerk reviewed the agenda items for the March 12th regular meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Connie Campanella asked if the work on Yale Avenue will have an impact ont eh 5-mile run scheduled for June 20th. Commissioner Mullock will check with the Borough engineer, but hopefully the work will be finished before that. Ms. Campanella also mentioned the trash truck took the turn at Coral very quickly, driving over the striping. The Borough will speak with the trash company. Solicitor Russell advised many towns are going with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for trash collection because of the level of professionalism. Ms. Campanella expressed concern that the Planning Board has not been preparing an annual program of capital projects as required by N.J.S.A. Title 40. Solicitor Russell responded the state statute permits that but doesn't require it. Commissioner Mullock explained that he and the Borough Engineer work on a 5-year plan for roadwork. He felt capital planning for a town as small as Cape May Point is better done by the governing body than the Planning Board because it involves various Borough departments and budgets. The Commissioners do act on things as recommended by the Planning Board, such as the traffic calming measure that resulted from the circulation element of the master

plan. Other things, like a new public works building, would be presented to the Planning Board for input. He thought the process was working well.

Sandy Allison asked if the Borough has discussed changing streetlights to LEDs. The Borough has looked into it, but it was not cost effective, and there are no grant programs at this time. Ms. Allison asked if the Borough is putting handsanitizer in all public buildings. The Borough has been following directives about handwashing, sanitizer, mask use by employees, etc.

Catherine Busch suggested the Taxpayers Bulletin mention the sign up for Borough newsletter through the new website. She also suggested putting information on the homepage on how to sign up for the registry for special assistance during emergencies. Lastly, she asked the Borough was going to do a big push for people to complete the census. Commissioner vanHeeswyk explained the Census Bureau wants people to fill it out on April 1st from where they are. It would be difficult to publish something contrary to that directive. In 2010 people were encouraged to use Cape May Point, which inflated the numbers by roughly 80 people.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 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