

Beach

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tain areas.

Pakin said the first area of restoration was around the bunker in the state park and heading west to the first groin cell in Cape May Point, where the ACOE was placing 160,000 cubic yards of sand. The next area was going to the fourth compartment in Cape May Point, where they were placing 40,000 cubic yards of sand.

The third area includes the Cove Beach, where another 160,000 cubic yards is being placed.

“Part of the quantity is a dune just west of Cove Restaurant,” Pakin said. “That is to help control wind-blown sand on Beach Avenue and surrounding properties,” he said.

Pakin said the dune would be planted with dune grasses and snow fence would be set up at the toe (where the dune meets the beach). The total project involves placing 360,000 yards of sand on local beaches.

“The surveys showed a need for that,” Pakin said.

According to Pakin, the beach restoration is really part of an ecosystem restoration project for the Lower

Cape Meadows. He said the whole point of the project is to protect, preserve and restore the whole ecosystem of the Nature Conservancy and the state park tract. Initial construction on the project began in 2004 and 2005 when the ACOE built up the beach and a berm in anticipation of the restoration project. In 2006-07 they began the environmental restoration portion of the project in the Nature Conservancy and state park.

“The reason it extends to Cape May Point is to avoid flooding coming into the state park from the Point,” Pakin said. “This is a unique fresh water point and saltwater intrusion had been decimating it for years.”

In 2008 the ACOE placed just 70,000 cubic yards of sand on area beaches because it did not have the funding for the amount in the normal four-year cycle. He said in 2008 the Cove didn’t need to be filled-in, but in 2009 the city was concerned about the dramatic amount of erosion in that area.

“We didn’t have the money to do anything then, but we got money in 2010-11 and went back and surveyed and the area needed sand,” he

said.

Pakin said the renourishment sand is coming from a sand bar about five miles offshore. They select the mine site based on the type of sand needed to match what exists on the renourishment site. He said they are using a Hopper Dredge to get the sand. With a hydraulic dredge they suck sand off the ocean floor and deposit it on the beach. In this case, the mining site is so far away they suck sand off ocean floor and load it into a giant bin called a hopper, which motors toward shore, hooks to end of pipe and the sand is pumped toward the beach.

“There are big baskets to collect any UXO (unexploded ordinance) and screens on every pipe to make sure nothing dangerous is put on the beach,” Pakin said. “Then we move sand around to what we call a constructed berm or template. The wind and waves then create equilibrium in the profile after a while. We feel it will reach equilibrium profile pretty quick.”

Pakin said the goal of the project is to protect the ecosystem and protecting beach homes is not their concern.

“In this (project) there may be incidental protection, but that is not the primary goal,” he said.

Water

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borough’s efforts to solve the problem.

Gallagher researched borough records on the matter that discovered a possible loss of 121 million gallons of water between 2003 and 2009, valued at approximately \$695,000.

“We don’t know how much money and water was actually lost,” Kaithern said. “We just discovered a problem.”

Now that the faulty meter

has been found, Kaithern said a meeting with Cape May City officials has been requested.

“I anticipate we will sit down with Cape May and discuss the replacement of the meter and where to go from there,” she said. “We have to work together and figure things out.”

There was talk of a potential reimbursement for the borough, once the amount of water lost was found.

Kaithern said they would not worry about that for now and just focus on getting the meter replaced.

“Where we go from there is the next chapter,” she said.

“We appreciate the cooperation (Cape May) has exhibited throughout this investigative process and its stated willingness to replace the Wilbraham Park master meter with a more appropriate model,” Kaithern said in a Jan. 19 press release.

MAB

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the MAB alone. He said the benefit of each councilman having their own board would be getting more of the community involved with the local government.

“We don’t want to get rid of the MAB,” Conrad said, “I just want to change the name and how many picks there are.”

Conrad assured the public that most of the people on the board would remain there.

Simonsen, who was the former MAB chairman, said he was asked why he didn’t favor leaving the MAB, as is Beck.

“I don’t feel like I have to defend them,” he said, “because they can defend themselves considering what they’ve done.”

The MAB has been strongly involved with the solar energy proposals and projects for Lower Township as well as offering budget advice and organizing the block party. Beck said they’ve done nothing but positive things for the township and he will keep defending its current

arrangement.

Conrad commended the MAB for the work they had done and agreed it has done good things for the township.

“It’s just that council doesn’t know what’s going on, and we want to make it more council-friendly,” Conrad said.

MAB member Fred Long said during the public comment portion that he didn’t understand the concerns that had been expressed by Conrad and the other council members. He said none of them even came to the MAB meetings and if they wanted to change it so badly, they should attend.

“I’d like to invite the councilmen to come to the meetings if they’d like to know what’s going on,” he said.

Beck said the minutes from the MAB meetings are also posted on the township website and council could at least keep up with what the board is doing.

Colleen Hughes backed Beck on his statement and said she used to draw up the minutes for the board meetings and they were very

detailed. She also said she felt as though Conrad and other council members were attacking the MAB.

“It really hurts when people try to downgrade you and stomp on your work,” she said.

Former Lower Township Mayor Jack Sparks said he agreed with Conrad’s idea to change the board’s configuration.

“They’re not disbanding it, they’re expanding it,” he said. “I think they will appoint the right people.”

Sparks said he would rather it be two people from each district rather than four or five members from the same ward.

No decision on the board’s configuration have been made, but Beck said the board has done incredible work and there is no reason for council to do this other than to “put a fence” around him.

“I signed up for four years, and I’ll keep fighting until my term is up,” he said.

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