

West Cape May refines tree-removal regulations

By RACHEL SHUBIN

Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough's Green Team continued to discuss changes and revisions to the vegetation and tree ordinance.

The provision for emergency removal was edited, allowing a tree to be removed for an emergency or damage beyond repair. In the following five days of the tree removal, a resident would be required to submit a tree removal application to the Shade Tree Commission.

"We should ask for pictures for proof," Commissioner Carol Sabo said.

Wayne Hoffman, treasurer of the Shade Tree Commission, asked the commissioners to change the tree inventory to the "West Cape May List of Approved Trees and Shrubs."

"We have an extensive list and it includes the maturity size and what is good for birds," Hoffman said. "We were told this list could be a model for the state of New Jersey because no one else has done it."

Changes to the landscape and vegetation sections were to provide context.

"We made changes to the vegetation coverage requirements regarding

structures with less coverage," solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said. "They will be able to remain as such under nonconformity, unless the property is altered or landscaped."

Mayor Pam Kaithern stated that progress continues to be made to get the borough into the National Flood Insurance Program Community Ratings System.

"We are working toward the community assistance visit and submitting a letter to the program," Kaithern said. "I know it is taking a lot of work but this work is what is going to get the flood insurance rates re-

duced in town. The little bit of work will net results immediately."

An application for a hardship for a street opening to install a water line was approved by the board. South Jersey Gas had recently excavated and repaved Myrtle Avenue, and sent homeowners a letter to ask them to remove their cars from the street before the work began. The letter was a few days before the paving took place.

It was not clear that once South Jersey Gas had repaved the street, a borough ordinance in place that places a five-year moratorium on digging up the

street. A resident of Myrtle Avenue requested the hardship, since the letter sent by South Jersey Gas did not state that excavation would need to be done before the street was repaved.

Engineer Ray Roberts reported a new state mandated legislation passed into law on Oct. 18 will require the borough to create a water utility assessment plan. It is required for any community that operates water distribution.

The law would require the borough to have a GPS map of all the water mains, water valves, and hydrant locations to identify any

weak spots. Then it is required that the borough would come up with a 10-year capital improvement plan for eventual system replacement.

"I imagine this happened because of Flint, Michigan," Roberts said. "This plan will prevent it from going until it is so massive that you can't afford replacement. They want you to come up with a plan for replacement, what it will cost and do to your rate structure."

Roberts said he planned to keep the borough apprised of the situation and would find out the deadline for the water utility plan.

Cape May Point's Green Team earns bronze certification

By RACHEL SHUBIN

Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — The borough's Green Team has achieved bronze certification by Sustainable Jersey, a significant label for municipal governments in New Jersey.

The Sustainable Jersey program was created to provide community efforts to improve the environment.

The Green Team has worked to make Cape May Point a more sustainable municipality. The Green Team redesigned the environment page on the borough's website, which now boasts a variety of wildlife information, nature guides, suggestions for landscaping and trees, as well as ways to protect the environment and a recycling guide. The team also has redeveloped the recycling depot on Sunset Boulevard.

The Green Team also up-

dated emergency management communication plan for the borough. The team also created an upgrade to retrofit the water conservation plan, previously done by the Public Works Department. New water meters were installed, which helped decrease loss of water where leaks were not detected.

The Green Team created a bicycle and pedestrian plan, and is working with Cape May City on a bicycle walk plan. The team also updated the 1999 version of the environmental resource inventory. The Planning Board has been incorporated into the master plan, which is available on the borough website.

A new effort this past summer was the prescription drug drop off and coffee with a cop program, organized by The Green Team. There is always a prescription drug drop off available in the lobby of the Cape May City

Police Department.

Chairwoman Catherine Busch reported the Green Team is working toward achieving silver certification, which might take two years but would provide benefits such as access to grant programs. These grants would allow the municipality to continue to reduce the borough's carbon footprint, reduce energy costs and prepare for climate change.

The current terms for the Green Team members will expire in December and will require reappointment. They are also looking for volunteers to help.

The Green Team meets the first Monday of the month, except for Monday holidays when they meet the second Monday, at Borough Hall.

Commissioner Robert Mullock reported that the borough is working toward the combination of the two Public Works facilities.

"We met with the Environmental Commission and the plan was very well received," Mullock said. "The next step is to design and do a cost analysis of that, which might take a little time with the changeover of the state administration."

A resident of Oak Avenue expressed extreme concern for the combination of the Public Works areas.

"I think we have a great Public Works Department and none of my complaints are about their work, but the chosen location for the equipment," the resident said. "I will soon be moving here, to my retirement home. The Public Works building is next to my property and that will decrease the property value of my home and my neighbors' homes."

The resident asked the Board of Commissioners to think of the residents of Oak Avenue when considering the consolidation that would

place the Public Works building 10 feet away from homes. She submitted a letter with a statement and Deputy Mayor Anita VanHeeswyk asked for a copy to be submitted to the municipal clerk.

"The thought of constant noise starting at 7 a.m. all week long is disheartening," the resident said. "We are the lost corner of Cape May Point."

VanHeeswyk stated that everything was submitted for the Community Rating System program and the board is looking to hire someone for that position in the future.

"I recently attended a Coastal Coalition meeting, which we will be connected to and get extra points next year for the CRS program," VanHeeswyk said.

The board of commissioners adopted an ordinance that will establish a lifeguard chief for Cape May Point. There was no

lifeguard chief previously, but a lifeguard captain. The captain will now become a chief.

Another resident expressed concern for the broken fencing at the Alexander Avenue beach entrance.

"Two sections are completely gone, so anyone can walk into the dunes," she said. "I know not many people are around this time of year but I was wondering if Public Works is aware and has any plans to fix it."

Mullock stated that Alexander Avenue is a hot spot and has a higher degree of traffic.

"Alexander Avenue has become a bit of a problem with people bringing dogs onto the beach and using it as an entrance to Lower Township," Mullock said. "We will have to take additional steps with Alexander Avenue and we will repair the fence."

TIDES : Nov. 15-22, 2017				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
15	5:38	5:51	11:33	11:48
16	6:20	6:34	12:19	
17	6:59	7:14	12:28	1:02
18	7:36	7:53	1:05	1:43
19	8:12	8:31	1:41	2:23
20	8:48	9:09	2:17	3:03
21	9:25	9:48	2:52	3:43
22	10:03	10:29	3:27	4:23

MOON PHASES

New moon, Nov. 18 • first quarter, Nov. 26

Driver charge with second DWI in week after crash

ERMA — Lower Township police received a report of a one-car motor vehicle accident in the evening hours of Nov. 11 in the area of the 1100 block of Seashore Road.

Upon arrival, officers dis-

covered a vehicle operated by Elizabeth Corey, 28, of Somers Point, had ran off the roadway and struck a utility pole causing a temporary loss of power to the area.

The investigation led to

the arrest of Corey, who was issued five tickets, which included driving while intoxicated, failure to maintain a lane, reckless driving, use of cell phone in a moving vehicle and refusal to submit to a breath test. At the con-

clusion of the investigation and subsequent processing, Corey was released in accordance with departmental procedures and state Attorney General guidelines.

This matter is pending court and is still currently under investigation by Ptl. Jennifer Anzelone. Assisting agencies included the Cape May Police Department, West Cape May Fire Department and the Lower Township Rescue Squad.

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6:30pm -10:30pm at
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\$20 admission INCLUDES
Food, Wine & Beer!

Live Music, 50/50 Raffle,
Eagles Pool,
Chinese Auction!

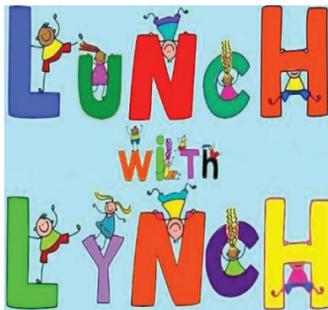
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