



Sheehan wants chamber to pay for workers at festival

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House of the week

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Could shuttle be solution to parking woes?

Committee to study possibility of island transportation system

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A citywide transportation service that would include shuttle vehicle and other conveyances may provide the most practical solution to the city's considerable parking shortage.

During a meeting June 8, City Council authorized a study and recommendation for the design and funding of a citywide transportation system to accommodate residents and visitors.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said the resolution mentions the Parking Advisory Committee working with the Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC). She questioned whether the Parking Advisory Committee should examine the issue or whether a transportation committee should be established.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the parking committee undertook studies in the past. She said the committee studied a parking garage, parking meter rates and advocated for jitney service.

"If they've already done a lot of this work, why lose that knowledge that they've already done? We can expand on it," Sheehan said.

City Clerk Erin Burke said she posted notice on the city's website that positions are available on the Parking Advisory Com-

mittee but received no inquiries. She said she was unsure of the current status of membership since it had not met in several years.

Sheehan said the enabling resolution reaffirms the mission of the parking committee. She said she believes the new resolution supersedes an earlier resolution enabling the committee.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the new resolution identifies an area of inquiry and tasks two potential advisory committees with looking at those specific issues. Sheehan said she was appointed council liaison to the Parking Advisory Committee in January.

Mayor Zack Mullock said he was under the impression that MTRAC would examine the transportation issue and include some members of the parking committee to submit suggestions.

Sheehan said MTRAC planned to have the parking committee develop a transportation plan for the city.

Gillin-Schwartz suggested an overall solution for transportation be sought by creating a committee with members from both advisory boards.

"Instead of having two, then it's just one advisory committee that's really just laser-focused on this issue and these specific tasks

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Seeking safe beach, city to hire coastal engineer

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Beach Safety Advisory Committee is helping the city find a coastal engineer to fix the sharp drop-off on the beach that may be responsible for bather injuries.

Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said June 13 that a subcommittee on beach replenishment has been meeting to find a coastal engineer for the city.

Marc DeBlasio, an engineer volunteering with the Beach Safety Advisory Committee, said the subcommittee has been putting together a request for qualifications for a coastal engineer to run modeling and study improvements to make the beach safer.

A coastal engineer could suggest making stone groins taller or longer to retain sand and to have an impact on the surf zone,

he said.

"This is all going to be computer-modeled," Baldwin said.

DeBlasio said the city should give the coastal engineer specific goals and objectives that should be included in the request for proposals. Baldwin said the end result could be a demonstration beach project.

"It's hard to predict what the solution is going to be," she said.

Beach Safety Advisory Committee Chairman Steve Steger said if a recommendation were made, such as a demonstration beach, it would be up to the city to find funding for a project to test the solution.

"If it's successful and tested over a period of time, then you could deploy that where applicable," he said.

DeBlasio said once the

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Melissa Laurino/CMWWRC

The Cape May Whale Watch & Research Center offers multiple daily trips to spot marine mammals off the Cape May area.

year," Laurino said. "They utilize Cape May during the spring, summer and fall as their feeding, mating and birthing ground, and head down south to North Carolina during the winter months."

Laurino said the crew has recently seen two well-known female dolphins return to Cape May with their pods.

"Last week they surprised us with a calf," she said. "We're looking forward to seeing which of our other

known females will give birth this summer."

Every trip aboard the whale watch is different, depending on the time of day or year.

"Ospreys nest on many of the Cape May Harbor channel markers and throughout our season we watch them raise their young until eventually they take their first flight," Laurino said. "Bald eagles are a common sight along with a variety of different species of gulls, terns and inshore pelagic species

like Wilson's stormy petrels, jaegers and shearwaters."

Late spring and early summer are a great time to spot newborn calves from the bottlenose dolphins, also called young-of-year (YOY) or neonates.

"It is never the same when you are traveling out in nature," she said. "In the warm-water months, it is common to sight other species of marine life in addition to marine mammals like loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles, hammerhead and spinner sharks, and the largest species of bony-fish in the entire world, the mola mola or oceanic sunfish."

The most common type of whale seen on the daily trips are hump-back whales, and Laurino said they can be photo-identified by the underside of their fluke or tail fin.

"We have worked with many different organizations including the Whale and Dolphin Conservation out of Plymouth, Mass., and have matched our humpback whales all throughout the East Coast from the Dominican Republic to Nova Scotia."

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