

West Cape delays vote on expanding historic district

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission delayed introducing an ordinance to expand the borough's historic district to allow more conversation with property owners.

The ordinance was on the agenda for introduction but was removed by a unanimous vote of Borough Commission during a meeting Oct. 27.

A building on Rea's farm would be included in a new Stevens Street historic district. The structure was at one time a residence but is now used as a farm building. The Rea farm is part of the state farmland preservation program.

Diane Rea said she objected to having the farm in a new historic district. She said the Rea family has lived on their land for 100 years as of 2022.

"We feel we have the right to do with our land what we want," she said.

Rea said the historic farmhouse on the property is not used as a residence but is used as a farm building and contains a commercial kitchen for canning and baking. The Rea family operates a farm stand on the property.

She said her family was trying to make the farm productive.

"To tell us what we can and cannot do with the building is not right," Rea said. "We do not want the house put in a historic position."

It's a small farm and the family does not have the finances to make improvements to the farmhouse as would be required by the HPC, Rea said.

The Reas have a contract to install new windows in the building that would not meet the standards of the HPC but would match other windows installed

previously, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said.

He said the Reas were not happy because they found out their building was to be included in the proposed expanded historic district by reading it in the Cape May Star and Wave.

The borough's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is not required to send notices to owners of homes proposed to be included in a historic district, HPC Chairman Elan Zingman-Leith said.

Borough Commissioner John Francis II suggested as a form of transparency, homeowners should be contacted to inform them of being included. He said some owners of historic homes could be on fixed incomes and may not be able to fix up their homes to HPC standards.

Zingman-Leith said the HPC does not require an owner to make any changes to their house.

"When you want to make changes, the HPC does require that they are appropriate to the building," he said. "It doesn't always mean the more expensive alternative."

The HPC approved asphalt roofs because the labor cost for the installation of cedar shake roofs is high, Zingman-Leith said. The cost of a wooden window is not much more than a good vinyl window, he added.

The HPC's work has not put much of a burden on the citizens of West Cape May, he said.

Zingman-Leith said the impetus for consideration of expanding the historic district began with confusion over whether a particular house needed a permit because it had been identified in a survey of historic homes but not designated in a historic district.

He said Mayor Carol

Sabo requested HPC members determine if there were other homes in the borough that should be designated as part of a historic district. HPC commissioners found additional homes of historical significance and recommended the extension of the historic district in several places and to create a noncontiguous part of the historic district on Stevens Street.

Homes in West Cape May's historic district are included because of their architecture, he said. The borough does not have buildings associated with historical events, Zingman-Leith said.

"The (HPC) commissioners felt that this small group of buildings around Stevens Street are very significant for architecture and for their structure; they're very rare in the United States," he said.

Zingman-Leith said the HPC was interested only in the former farmhouse on the Reas property, built in the 18th or possibly 17th, century, but no other buildings on the farm. He said if the Rea family wanted to change something on the house, the HPC would have to find it appropriate.

Vinyl windows, vinyl siding or vinyl fencing would not be appropriate for the house, he said. Zingman-Leith said the HPC did not overlap with the farmland preservation program.

"It's intended to recognize how wonderful this house is," he said. "It's really the only way in New Jersey that you can stop a building from being torn down."

Zingman-Leith said the HPC was founded in West Cape May when an 18th-century house was torn down across the street from Borough Hall. He said it would be awful if the homes on Stevens Street were lost.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Rea family, owners of Rea's Farm, object to their former farmhouse being included as a contributing structure to the expanded historic district in West Cape May. 'We feel we have the right to do with our land what we want,' Diane Rea told Borough Commission.

Tabone joins St. Barnabas in Villas

VILLAS — St. Barnabas by the Bay Episcopal Church in Villas welcomes the Rev. Marcel Tabone to the parish. He is scheduled to celebrate his first service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 7.

Born and raised in Malta on the small island of Gozo, Tabone is the oldest of seven siblings. He was ordained in 1985 in Malta and continued his education in the United States. Tabone was received as a priest into the Episcopal Church by the Right Rev. William Stokes, bishop of New Jersey, earlier this year.

Tabone has been a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Waretown since 2017 and has assisted several diocesan parishes.

For more information

about St. Barnabas by the Bay, at 13 W. Bates Ave. in

Villas, call (609) 886-5960 or visit stbarnabasvillas.org.

TIDES: Nov. 3-10, 2021

| DATE | HIGH | | LOW | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 3 | 7:13 | 7:28 | 12:41 | 1:11 |
| 4 | 7:58 | 8:15 | 1:25 | 2:02 |
| 5 | 8:44 | 9:05 | 2:10 | 2:54 |
| 6 | 9:32 | 9:56 | 2:56 | 3:47 |
| 7 | 9:23 | 9:51 | 2:45 | 3:42 |
| 8 | 10:18 | 10:50 | 3:38 | 4:40 |
| 9 | 11:17 | 11:56 | 4:36 | 5:42 |
| 10 | | 12:22 | 5:41 | 6:47 |

MOON PHASES

New moon, Nov. 4 • first quarter, Nov. 11



CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
Volume 167 Number 44

Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc.,
963 Lenape Drive, Lower Township, NJ 08204

Published Weekly (52 times a year)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$42 a year; \$75 for two years; \$22 for six months. Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, P.O. Box 2427, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

THE STAR
AND WAVE
WELCOMES
YOUR EMAIL —
CMSTARWAVE@
COMCAST.NET

Historic Cold Spring Village

Ghoul Spring Village

October 22nd & 23rd, 5:30p - 8pm

A family-friendly haunted walk-thru for young and old alike.

\$4.00 Admission Fee

Rain or moonshine event

Advance tickets available online at hcsv.org
or at the gate at time of event.

Historic Cold Spring Village, 735 Seashore Road, Cape May NJ

Proceeds benefit HCSV Foundation, a non-profit living history museum

Ocean Wind 1 open house

Join representatives from Ocean Wind 1, New Jersey's first offshore wind farm, at an open house. Join in-person or virtually to hear a project update and to ask questions about this clean energy initiative which will help combat climate change and create jobs.

When: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 6th
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Ocean City Music Pier, 825 Boardwalk, Ocean City

To register for virtual participation, visit ocw1openhouse.eventbrite.com.

Socially distanced seating and a mask request will be in place to protect the health and well-being of all involved.



Ocean Wind
An Ørsted & PSEG project

THE BEER
THAT BUILT
THE HOUSE



Cape May County
Brewers
Collaboration

Join us and your favorite local breweries as they
take over the taps at Rio Station for a unique
surprise launch to help build a Habitat home!

FREE ADMISSION

YOU'RE INVITED

WHEN

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 5TH
6:00 - 10:00 PM

WHERE

RIO STATION
3505 ROUTE 9 SOUTH
RIO GRANDE, NJ 08242

VIP Package including: Early entry • Brewer introduction
Beer samplings • Merch • Raffle Ticket for SWAG Basket
Available for purchase at Habitatcapemaycounty.org

Proceeds of the sale of The Beer That Built The House will be donated to this cause.

