

# Cape May Point swears in two new commissioners

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Mayor Anita VanHeeswyk, Deputy Mayor Elise Geiger and Commissioner Suzanne Yunghans were sworn in during the Jan. 15 meeting of Cape May Point Borough Commission.

“I would like to thank all the voters in Cape May Point for putting the trust in all three of us,” Geiger said. “The promise is to strive to do the best we possibly can for the community.”

Geiger will oversee the Public Safety and Public Affairs Department serve as a class III member of the Planning Board and Yunghans will oversee the Public Works Department. VanHeeswyk retained her revenue and finance department.

Geiger thanked outgoing commissioner Catherine Busch and former mayor Bob Moffatt.

“It’s a lot of work [as] us newbies are starting to find out,” Geiger said. “We always appreciate the efforts that are put in by the people who essentially volunteer a lot of their time for the good of our community.”

VanHeeswyk echoed Geiger’s sentiment, thanking the public for allowing her to continue as part of the commission.

“I think people often forget being a commissioner really affects everyone around them,” VanHeeswyk said. “It’s a lot of work and those who love them take a part in it, too. We have a great group of people here and people who volunteer their time in so many ways.”

Yunghans encouraged the public to reach out and speak with the commissioners.

“We all expect to hear from you and hope you know us all well enough to know that we will always listen,” she said. “I would be remiss if I didn’t give a shout out to Catherine Busch, [as] she capably served the past four years, and we owe her our gratitude as well as Bob Moffatt.”

Both Geiger and Yunghans agreed that the former commissioner and mayor shared helpful information so that the transition could go smoothly.

“I have the greatest respect for Elise and Anita, my fellow commissioners,” Yunghans said. “We won’t always agree, which is good for healthy discourse. We will hold what’s best for Cape May Point as our primary focus.”

Other professional appointments included John Amenhauser continuing as solicitor, Michael Garcia as borough auditor,

Dale Foster as borough engineer and Michael Sullivan as borough planner.

During the commissioners’ discussion, VanHeeswyk said that New Jersey cities and towns have until the end of January to either accept the number of affordable housing units the state is requiring them to produce over the next 10 years or come up with counter-proposals.

“In a new affordable housing law passed last year, state lawmakers laid out how each town’s obligation will be calculated for a 10-year period that begins in July,” VanHeeswyk said. “Figures are based on factors such as average income and the amount of developable land in each town.”

The resolution is expected to be on the agenda for adoption during the Jan. 28 meeting.

“We will be doing the required resolution to adopt the number for Cape May Point of zero,” VanHeeswyk said. “Our attorneys have been working on that and we’re going to be good to go and meet the required deadline.”

Resident Sandy Allison asked if there would be a discussion on affordable housing. VanHeeswyk said there wouldn’t be much discussion because the state has given a number of zero.

“I believe we’re going to choose

to accept that for obvious reasons,” VanHeeswyk said. “As you know, Sandy, this has been going on since the Mount Laurel decision. It’s hard to bring anybody up to speed on this through all the iterations on what’s been going on.”

VanHeeswyk added that the commissioners did not receive the state template on what to do until it was sent through the League of Municipalities.

“Things have gotten through at us in a very short period of time,” VanHeeswyk said. “We did have a Zoom meeting, about our number and how they came up with it.”

VanHeeswyk said she anticipates that over the next 10 years, there will be several changes.

“The Council on Affordable Housing was dissolved many years ago and they recently have dissolved the term,” she said.

“The way we’re doing it now, we basically have to go to court and see a judge. The judge decides between us and the Fair Share Housing [Center].”

The commission has 48 hours to submit the resolution to the state no later than Jan. 31.

“February 3 is the deadline date, but we have to file our declaratory judgment action,” Amenhauser said. “We don’t have any leeway beyond Jan. 28 unless

we were not going to accept the number given.”

Allison asked if the number was for a five or 10-year term.

“The prospective number, which is a potential future that needs to go out to 10 years, as Anita was saying, is listed at five,” Amenhauser said. “That’s not anything that’s set in stone at this point; it’s prospective need as of today. The current need is zero and the prospective need is five and we will deal with that number going forward.”

Allison congratulated the commission and wished them well.

“I look forward to attending the meetings and I’ll probably have comments and questions,” she said.

Allison shared that she went to a meeting in Cape May Point during the week and heard that the roads were in great shape after the winter snowstorm. She thanked the team responsible.

Cape May Mayor Zack Mullock said he was looking forward to working with the commission.

“I wanted to wish everyone congratulations and all the best,” Mullock said. “Commissioners Yunghans and Geiger, thank you for your willingness to serve and we’re looking forward to working with you at the city [of Cape May].”

# Moffatt reflects on time as Cape May Point mayor, commissioner

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**  
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CAPE MAY POINT — After 12 years on the Board of Commissioners, nine as mayor, Bob Moffatt chose to pass the gavel and did not seek reelection.

During a recent interview, he humbly reflected on overseeing years of progress for the borough.

“I feel fortunate to be in the position to do what’s best in the interests of [Cape May] Point,” he said. “I will continue to do what I can to help the town because I love it.”

For Moffatt, serving as mayor was a daily position in addition to his work as a veterinarian at Cape May Veterinary Hospital. While residents attend municipal meet-

ings at which they see the commissioners at work, much goes on behind the scenes.

“It’s been an everyday thing coming in on my lunch breaks between my shifts at the veterinary hospital,” he said. “[I’d come in] and get caught up on everything.”

Moffatt said the board accomplished many things during his 12 years on the commission, noting that maintaining roads and infrastructure is critical for the town’s success.

“I’m proud of facilitating the traffic-calming on Cape Avenue and Light-house Avenue,” he said. “I’ve been working on that since 2012; they are county roads and it’s a lot of work.”

Moffatt oversaw the Cape May Point Beach

Patrol and he especially enjoyed working with the summertime staff.

“We maintained a superb beach patrol, letting them make decisions and do the hard work,” he said.

Moffatt said the thing he would miss the most is his co-workers at Borough Hall and in the Public Works Department.

“[There is a true] camaraderie [among] the people who work here in borough hall and public works. It’s been a pleasure working with all of them,” he said.

The new commission was sworn in during a meeting Jan. 15, when former deputy mayor Anita VanHeeswyk was chosen as mayor. Elise Geiger, the new deputy mayor, and Suzanne Yunghans

joined VanHeeswyk.

Moffatt said the new governing body is dedicated and ready to help the community.

“They are coming in with the best intentions for the future of Cape May Point,” he said. “It isn’t an easy job because there are so many rules and regulations that are imposed on the commissioners, at least with the two new ones, and they need to enter with an open mind.”

Moffatt said it is essential for the new members to listen to everyone’s opinions, and he believes they will be dedicated to helping the community.

“Elise [Geiger] is taking over my department and will be contracting with the new shared service police contract and municipal courts; they’re two

major things she will have to deal with,” he said. “It’s always been fortunate to have really superb people in the beach director and lifeguard chief, so I think they can take care of things and help guide her with what she needs.”

Moffatt added that Administrator Ed Grant would also be helpful to the newcomers.

“I wish the new commissioners and Anita

[VanHeeswyk], who has been here longer than me, a really successful four years,” Moffatt said. “I know there will be new challenges, as always, that come out of the blue, but I won’t leave. I will always be here to help.”

Moffatt said he hopes to dedicate more time to his patients and clients at the veterinary hospital and to spend more time with friends and family.

# Swim team off to terrific start

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onds. Reilly Satt, Kaylee Eck, Layton Arenberg and Alana Wright were second. Pleasantville’s Juan Castillo, Krisley Vargas, Helbert Quinones and Manuel Morales were third.

Colin McAnaney (2:40.01) won the 200 freestyle with LCMR teammates Bronson Goodavage and Molly Maiorana second and third. Quinones was fourth for Pleasantville.

AJ Granero (2:58.14), Addison Lagares and Kaitlyn Flynn were 1-2-3 for LCMR in the 200 individual medley.

Kallen Garagozzo (29.42 seconds), Cannavo and Johnny Montgomery were first, second and third, respectively, in the 50 freestyle.

Fucci won the 100 butterfly in 1:16.52 with Flynn and Lagares second and third. Vargas was fourth for Pleasantville and Brandon Mendoza fifth.

Kronmeyer won the 100 freestyle in 1:01.49 with

teammates Conley Ryan and Wright second and third. Vargas and Mendoza were fourth and fifth for the Greyhounds.

Ruff, Eck and Samantha Benigno went 1-2-3 in the 400 freestyle.

Goodavage, McAnaney, Montgomery and Garagozzo won the 200 freestyle relay in a time of 2:03.74. Ella Osmundsen, Maiorana, Stephen Lutjen and Liam Goodavage were second and Caper Tiger teammates Matt Caballero, Riley Deignan, Tran Nguyen and Julia Deignan were third. Greyhounds Morales, Quinones, Figueroa and Mendoza were fourth.

Cannavo led a 1-2-3 sweep in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:16.17; Granero and Satt were second and third. Juan Castillo and Nicole Vega were fourth and fifth for Pleasantville.

Kronmeyer was at the front of another 1-2-3 sweep in the 100 breaststroke. He won in 1:25.58 with Fucci second and Arenberg third. Vargas

was fourth for Pleasantville.

Ruff, Ryan, McAnaney and Garagozzo finished off the meet with a win in the 400 freestyle relay in 4:47.17. Teammates Wright, Lutjen, Liam Goodavage and Osmundsen were second and Riley

Deignan, Caballero, Nguyen and Julia Deignan were third.

The CAL championships are 4 p.m. Jan. 28 at Atlantic City High School, the same day as the cutoff for Power Point seedings. The first round of sectional swim playoffs are Feb. 3.

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David Nahan/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Joseph Cannavo leads a 1-2-3 sweep in the backstroke.



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