

Committee: Lower speed limit on Pittsburg Ave.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has recommended a slower speed limit for Pittsburg Avenue as well as better-marked crosswalks and bike lanes.

During a City Council meeting Jan. 16, committee member Peter Hardy said the committee is recommending council pass a resolution requesting the county lower the speed limit on Pittsburg Avenue from 35 mph to 25 mph. He said Pittsburg Avenue is one of the few streets in Cape May that has a speed limit above 25 mph.

The street is largely residential with 500 dwellings on the west side of the street, including Village Green, he said. The U.S. Coast Guard has base housing located off Pittsburg Avenue on Pennsylvania and Delaware avenues.

"The only way to access base housing is to transit Pittsburg Avenue," Hardy said.

He said the street has inadequate signage with bicycle and pedestrian lanes in poor shape. Pittsburg Avenue has 12 crosswalks with two near Texas Avenue, Hardy said.

"Only one of the 12 pedestrian crosswalks is marked with any type of signage," he said. "This is the one located by Wawa."

Hardy, a Coast Guard family member, escorts a large number of children between base housing and Cape May City Elementary School. He said the most difficult part of the 1.5-mile trip is crossing Pittsburg Avenue due to vehicles not stopping or slowing down in time.

"The bike lanes are rapidly fading and disintegrating, with some sections almost completely gone from the roadway," Hardy said.

When approaching Pittsburg Avenue from Texas Avenue, there are no signs indicating the beginning of the bike lane, he said. Cars going around the bend end up driving in the beginning of the bike lane at high rates of speed, Hardy said. He said the bike lane abruptly ends when approaching Texas Avenue from Pittsburg Avenue with no further indication of where to travel safely.

Two crosswalks are located on Texas Avenue between Wawa and the C-View Inn. Hardy noted a pedestrian fatality recently occurred near the crosswalk closest to the C-View.

Hardy said the committee would like to see the bike lanes repainted on both sides of Pittsburg Avenue in its entirety, each of the 12 crosswalks adequately marked and the creation a safer means for pedestrians to cross Pittsburg Avenue at the intersections of



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The intersection of Pittsburg and Pennsylvania avenues in Cape May is one of the areas deemed dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Pennsylvania and Delaware avenues for Coast Guard families. The blinking red lights currently in use at the intersections of Pittsburg

and Delaware avenues and Pittsburg and Pennsylvania avenues are not enough to warn vehicles of pending crosswalks, he said.

The committee suggested lights embedded in the roadway that flash while pedestrians are crossing, more and larger signage or preferably a push-button crosswalk with traffic lights, Hardy said.

Council tabled a resolution to request the county reduce the speed limit on Pittsburg Avenue. City Solicitor Frank Corrado said the committee was requesting more than just a reduction in the speed limit from the county. He said he would incorporate all the committee's suggestions into the resolution.

Committee Chairman Bill Murray said the committee has taken a step back from recommending bike riding on the Promenade end by 8 a.m. during summer instead of the current 10 a.m. stopping time. He said the committee received some "push back" from residents and the committee would study the matter further.

Cape Tech High School will offer salon services

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County Technical High School cosmetology students are taking appointments from Feb. 1 through March 23 from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, with the last appointment starting at 1 p.m.

The school salon offers a full line of services except pedicures. The professional-level services are provided to the public by its senior-level students at reasonable prices.

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Cape May County Technical High School is located in the Toft building at 188 Crest

Haven Road in Cape May Court House. The instructors are Jackie Holland, teacher, and Lauren Johnson, assistant. To make an appointment, call (609) 380-0200, ext. 325.

For further information, visit capemaytech.com.

Beach Safety Committee

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life and sits and reviews that management program because I believe it goes back to 2008 originally," DeSatnick said. "I don't know if it's been evaluated since then."

Public Works Director Joe Picard said each year the city receives a list of restrictions that begin March 15 that include no raking of the beach from Baltimore Avenue to the U.S. Coast Guard beach. DeSatnick questioned if that area of beach is still active for endangered species of birds.

The city plans to install a public address system (PA) the length of the beach in order to broadcast safety messages and clear the beach before thunderstorms. City Manager Neil Young said the USDA was reviewing an ap-

plication from the city for a grant for funding assistance and would make a decision in March. The city will advertise for bids for the PA system next week, he said.

"My plan going through the budget process now is to add some funds to the beach utility budget itself to fund this PA system just in case the funding from USDA does not come through," Young said.

Typically, \$100,000 is placed in the beach utility for the capital improvement fund and this year it will be kept for the PA system, he said. Young said the city is hoping for a \$50,000 grant

from the USDA.

DeSatnick said it is important the beach patrol and beach taggers work together for beach safety such a directing the public to a QR code they may scan with their smartphone to access a city website of safety information including videos. Young suggested placing the QR code on the beach safety brochures.

Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks said beach safety information would be included in the combined city of Cape May and Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May guidebook, including the QR code.

Beach safety brochures are included in welcome bags made available to real estate offices and hotels, she said.

"The efforts of the Beach Patrol, the city, the taggers last season, the incidents on the beach in the surf zone were much less than they had been previously," DeSatnick said. "We realize that it depends on Mother Nature's mood, surf conditions, etc., but because of the efforts of the city and their departments, including Public Works, including everyone that works on this project, we should be proud of where we are today."

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