

CAPE MAY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Will Morey
Freeholder

4 Moore Road
Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210-1601
(609) 465-1080 ☒ Fax: 465-1418
planningbd@co.cape-may.nj.us



Established 1953

Leslie L. Gimeno, PP, AICP

Planning Director

Cape May County Planning Board Minutes of the Meeting of January 21st, 2016 5:00 P.M., Intermediate Meeting Room County Administration Building 4 Moore Road Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chairperson Boeshe; she subsequently read the public meeting notice.

Following the flag salute, roll call was taken with the following members being present:

Member	Present	Absent
Ms. Boeshe	X	
Mr. Foster		X
Mr. Humphries	X	
Mr. Morey		X
Mr. Rixey		X
Mr. Thornton	X	
Mr. Ashman	X	
Mr. Young		X

Others in Attendance:

Leslie Gimeno, PP, AICP, County Planning Director
Jason Downie, GIS Specialist III

Minutes of September 17th, 2015:

Mr. Thornton made a motion to adopt the minutes, as written. Mr. Ashman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Correspondence:

Ms. Gimeno said she had received Board of Chosen Freeholders Resolution # 16-16 Reappointing Freeholder Director Thornton and Freeholder Morey to the Planning Board.

Director's Report:

Ms. Gimeno offered congratulations to Freeholder Director Thornton for being the recipient of the 2015 "Freeholder of the Year" Award from the New Jersey Association of Counties. She said that according to NJAC, he was selected by virtue of his record of leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to delivering essential services in a cost-effective manner. Mr. Thornton said that it was a tremendous surprise and great honor to have been selected.

Ms. Gimeno reported that she participated on a subcommittee of the NJ County Planners Association that reviewed and commented on the proposed Water Quality Management Rules that had been released in Summer 2015. She said that the new rules focus on planning, not regulation which is positive – yet her concern is that they require a complete "redo" of the plan. She said that due to staffing and budgetary constraints, this would not be possible without grant funding. Mr. Thornton said that the WQMP process was extremely frustrating and that hundreds of thousands of grant dollars has been spent developing plans over the past 20 years. He said that the constant changing of the rules mid-stream has resulted in an ineffective process. Ms. Gimeno agreed that it was tremendously wasteful and frustrating situation.

Mr. Thornton reported that he had been to a meeting last week that that the CMC Municipal Utilities Authority is proposing to run a sewer line from the landfill to the 7 mile treatment plant. The line will service the leachate from the landfill, as well as the core area of the Borough of Woodbine, including the State School.

Ms. Gimeno said that the date for the 2016 Coast Guard Festival had been set for May 6th – May 8th. She said that events will be similar to last year, and that the planning process is being helped by an expanded volunteer group. Mr. Thornton said that the County is asking all 16 municipalities to contribute and to participate again this year.

Development Review Committee Summary:

Ms. Gimeno provided Board members with a spreadsheet containing a summary of the subdivisions and site plans reviewed by the Development Review Committee since the September Planning Board meeting.

Old Business:

Economic Development Updates:

The County took receipt of a delivery van which is to be leased to the Cape May Peninsula Oyster Cooperative. Grant funding from the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development was used to purchase the van, as well as the refrigeration unit. The

van will be used by the Oyster Cooperative members to transport product to their markets, which are located in Philadelphia and New York.

Ms. Gimeno said that she had been asked to speak at the “New Partners for Smart Growth Conference” in Portland, Oregon, in February to discuss the County’s experiences with the National Association of Counties’ Prosperity Summit and the use of the “Wealthworks” approach to economic development. She said that she would be participating on a panel discussion, using our local aquaculture and wine industries as examples of how asset-based economic development strategies work. Mr. Humphries said that there are lots of local examples that can use the strategy, including agricultural products like blueberries. Mr. Thornton added that there is an opportunity for local crops such as beech plums to be used in the development of specialized products such as beech plum vodka.

With regard to the South Jersey Economic Development District, Ms. Gimeno said that the transfer of the NextGen Aviation Park had been completed. The SJEDD is entering a new phase of planning for the future via working on both the Planning Grant from the US EDA in support of continued operations, as well as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which will guide regional economic development activities.

As an update for the activities of the Open Space Program, Ms. Gimeno gave a quick Powerpoint Presentation of recently recommended projects. She also noted that several program changes would be put into effect for 2016, including: 1) the acceptance of Historic Preservation Projects three times per year; 2) a decrease in the cash match requirements for projects listed on the State/National Historic Register; and 3) the establishment of a dedicated funding round for facilities related to bike paths / bike lanes where up to 50% of soft costs would be refunded to the municipality upon successful completion of the project.

Green Creek Tidal Estuary Project:

Ms. Gimeno said that each Board Member had a project status update in his or her packet. She mentioned that the project has its own webpages on the Planning Department website, and that this is a great way to keep tabs on the progress of the project, which is still in the data collection phase. Ms. Gimeno indicated that a significant effort was being made to involve stakeholders, both through the website updates and also a flyer, which was mailed to approximately 470 property owners located within 200 feet of the project boundary.

Regional Bicycle Facility Study and Implementation Project:

Ms. Gimeno reported that there had been an highly successful Stakeholder meeting with municipalities held in September, with 15/16 municipalities participating. She said that based on the outcome of that meeting, Jason had been working to compile maps of potential routes to connect existing facilities. Next steps involve meeting with interested parties / property owners (i.e. utility company) to generate preferred alternative routes.

The ultimate goal is to develop a plan for regional connectivity that can be implemented through partnerships between the municipalities, the County, the Open Space Program, and adjacent counties/municipalities.

New Business:

New Internet Map Server Site:

Ms. Gimeno thanked Jason Downie for volunteering to attend and to provide an overview of the new upgraded capemaycountyims.net website. She said that Mr. Downie has been with the Planning Department for the past 10 years and has spent the last several years completing web-based GIS training. She said that he does a fantastic job, and thanked him for all of his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Downie provided a live demonstration of the IMS site and its modules, the most popular of which is the Parcel Site. He said that it contains a wealth of information on properties in the County, including tax data, wetlands, flood zones, soils, and satellite / aerial images. He said that the new web-based GIS is much easier and user friendly than it used to be, and that our office is able to provide greatly enhanced content. Soon, the site will be available for use on cellular phones and tablets.

Mr. Downie showed the Board the Points of Interest module and its content which includes farm stands, bike lanes/paths, and cemeteries. In response to a question from Mr. Humphries, Mr. Downie said that our office coordinates with our Tourism Department to ensure that content is up to date. Mrs. Boeshe asked if historic or ecotourism resources are on the site, and Mr. Downie said that some are, but as we become aware of different elements, we add them. Mr. Thornton remarked that ecotourism and birding are huge attractions for the County, and that they contribute \$560 million to the economy. Mr. Ashman agreed, stating that birders are “big spenders” and have disposable income that they use to support their hobbies. Mr. Ashman asked how the IMS site is being advertised, and Mr. Downie said that there is definitely room for improvement in public outreach. Board members suggested local news media, social media, and partnerships with municipalities to get the word out. Mr. Thornton said that he was impressed with the site and complimented Mr. Downie on a job well done.

Transportation Comments:

None

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

At 6:010, Mr. Thornton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ashman seconded the motion. All in favor.