

CAPE MAY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Will Morey
Commissioner

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Leslie L. Gimeno, PP, AICP

Planning Director

Established 1953

Cape May County Planning Board Minutes of the Meeting of May 18th, 2023 5:00 P.M., Intermediate Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Simone; he subsequently read the public meeting notice.

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

Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Ashman		X
Mr. Bulakowski	X	
Mr. Church	X	
Ms. Hendricks	X	
Commissioner Morey	X	
Mr. Simone	X	

Others in Attendance:

Leslie Gimeno, PP, AICP, County Planning Director
Lauren Purdom, PP, AICP, Senior Planner

Public in Attendance:

None

Adoption of Minutes: Mr. Bulakowski made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from January 17th, 2023; Ms. Hendricks seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Director's Report:

- 1) National Planning Conference – Ms. Gimeno said that the National Planning Conference was held in Philadelphia on April 1-4th and that she, Ms. Purdom, and Mr. Mullen had been fortunate enough to attend. Ms. Gimeno said that she had attended sessions on sustainability planning, inclusionary housing, and public art. Ms. Purdom indicated that she focused on coastal resilience, green infrastructure, and “missing middle” housing. Ms. Gimeno said that Mr. Mullen went to sessions related to public recreation, historic preservation, public/private partnerships, and public art. Ms. Gimeno added that a number of sessions were made available to attendees online between April 26-28th and that she had been

able to complete all of her required continuing education credits through the in-person and online sessions.

- 2) Cape May County Park System Master Plan – Ms. Gimeno reported that CME Associates (partnering with ZoOceanarium) had been the successful proposal via the RFP process and were brought on board to create a Master Plan for the Cape May County Park System. To date, the consultants have had meetings with stakeholders, a Zoo tour, and a tour of all 4 park facilities. A preliminary list of issues and recommendations for the park system had been received, and a similar document specific to the Zoo is expected shortly. Timing for the project is being coordinated with the accreditation process for the AZA and ZAA organizations. When completed, the plan will be formatted in the same manner as the Creative Placemaking Plan, County Comprehensive Plan, and Farmland Preservation Plan, being heavy on visuals, appealing, and informative.

With respect to the new parking lot and rear entryway improvements, Mr. Church said that the project is advancing through permitting and a contract award for construction will likely occur in September. He indicated that the goal is to do the clearing soon and construction in the winter. There are issues related to utilities on Court House South Dennis Road and Route 9 that need to be resolved.

- 3) Thermoplastic Mileage Marker System- Ms. Gimeno said that the Department has coordinated with municipalities and our Creative Placemaking consultants to develop the first phase of a Wayfinding System on the Regional bike path. Wayfinding is important to help with orientation, public safety, and enjoyment of path users. Last winter, specifications were developed and the project was put out to bid. The successful bidder is “Zone Striping” out of Glassboro, NJ, with a cost of \$77,000. The goal is to have the work completed in the 2nd week of May so that it is in place for the summer season. When complete, a map will be provided to the municipalities and emergency management and press releases will be sent out to make the public aware of the system. The next phase of the project will be vertical wayfinding signage for the entire path, which is currently 17.2 miles long.
- 4) Upper Township Bikepath Connection Feasibility Study - The County was successful in having a feasibility study for connecting South Seaville (Dennis Township) with Beesley’s Point (Upper Township) funded and managed by the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization. Pennoni Associates was selected through a competitive RFP process to identify a “constructable” route to connect the northern section (goes into Atlantic County and eventually greater Philadelphia) with the southern section (goes to Cape May and to the Ferry which connects to Delaware trail system). Of great importance and benefit to the project is the cooperation of the US Fish & Wildlife Service who is amenable to trail placement on refuge property (with certain conditions). Challenges associated with the project include: wetlands; private property concerns; rail right of way; neighbor concerns. Field work for the project has been completed and a public meeting held on April 19th revealed concerns of residents over path alignment.

DRC Committee:

Ms. Purdom gave an overview of the subdivisions and site plans reviewed since the January Planning Board meeting. There were 22 subdivision applications processed resulting in 21 new lots and impacting 164 acres. For site plans, there were 21 total applications impacting 17.5 acres. A significant project of note was the conversion of the Cozy Crest Motel (Wildwood Crest) from 37 motel rooms to residential.

Transportation Comments:

Mr. Church gave a brief report on the following projects:

- \$60 million in projects being managed by the Engineering Department this year that includes 17 independent projects, 6 bridges, and 11 roads
- \$50 million in upcoming projects that include
 - Bayshore Road in Del Haven
 - 3rd Avenue in Stone Harbor
 - Tyler Road in Woodbine/ Dennis
 - Fishing Creek Pump Station
 - Beach Ave (Cape May) Pittsburg to Broadway

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

At 5:25, Mr. Bulakowski made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Hendricks seconded the motion; All in Favor.