

**AURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP**  
**Special Meeting**  
**East Point Lighthouse Project**

**Monday, November 19, 2018 – 11:00 am**

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

**Present:** Patricia Gross, Mayor  
J. Roy Oliver, Deputy Mayor  
Ken Whildin, Committeeman  
Cormac Morrissey, Engineer  
Ben Stowman, Chair LUB  
Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gross at 11:00 am and the pledge of allegiance followed.

Roll Call: Mrs. Gross, present  
Mr. Oliver, present  
Mr. Whildin, present

Guests present: David Golden, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife  
Jason Hearon, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife  
Bill Dixon, NJDEP Coastal Engineering  
John Benigno, NJDEP Coastal Engineering  
Allison McLeod, NJDEP Local Relations  
Robin Madden, NJDEP Assistant Commissioner's Office  
Ray Bukowski, NJDEP Assistant Commissioner's Office  
Kate Marcopul, NJDEP Historic Preservation Office  
Dorothy Guzzo, NJ Historic Trust  
Glenn Ceponis, NJ Historic Trust  
Joe Derella, Freeholder Cumberland County  
John Knoop, Cumberland County Engineer and Public Works  
Jayme Hyson, Cumberland County Public Works  
Douglas Whitaker, Cumberland County Asst. Engineer  
Bob Campbell, Mayor of Downe Township  
Nancy Patterson, East Point Lighthouse Historical Society

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the East Point Lighthouse Project and erosion stabilization.

**Discussion:**

East Point Lighthouse Project

Mayor Gross of Maurice River Township opened the meeting and turned the meeting over to NJDEP representative David Golden.

Mr. Golden explained that there were three areas of discussion regarding the beach erosion and flooding problem at the lighthouse. The first being the measures already taken due to erosion from flood waters, the second being the interim measure to protect the lighthouse and the third being the long-term measures that can be considered for protection of the lighthouse.

Mr. Hearon explained that the NJDEP, Cumberland County and the Township have worked together to address flooding problems, beach erosion. Recently a joint effort was done to emplace sand bags. Measures taken to date have been temporary fixes only and all entities have invested a lot of man hours into these measures.

Ms. Patterson expressed that the flooding has already caused damage inside the building and that the basement is always wet and the building is always damp. Ms. Patterson stated that water seeps up between the floor boards from the basement area.

It was discussed that the 'interim' repairs will not start until 2019; possibly in fall or winter. Therefore there is an approximate 8 month period that measures will need to be taken to emplace temporary fixes as problems occur. The NJDEP has committed \$10,000 toward the 'temporary fixes'. Mr. Hearon explained the 'berm' placement which has created a 'moat' effect around the lighthouse. The 'moat' helps prevent water from coming from the bay but also does not allow the water to flow out.

Mr. Dixon explained that tidal waters and wave action are the main threats. The geotube is the interim measure that is presently being considered but it is not a long-term fix. The geotube will stop the erosion and keep wave impact down but will not prevent tidal flooding. Mr. Dixon stated that the design of the temporary fix is at 90% and at the earliest construction will start early summer of 2019. Funding for the geotube is through the National Park Service with a cost of around half a million dollars.

It was discussed that ultimately the sea level is rising and seepage of water will come from the 'back side'. A feasibility study may be done to raise the lighthouse which will protect the lighthouse but not from 'wave action'. If the lighthouse was raised it would be easier to 'armor' the shoreline. Mr. Dixon questioned 'if' there was a desire to raise the lighthouse or move it further inland.

Mr. Bukowski stated that it is important to look at 'long-term' effects regarding the shoreline and the lighthouse. The feasibility study for this will be an investment of around \$100,000.

"Clay" as a material for the 'core' of the berm was discussed. It was discussed that generally 'clay' is used for levees but it does not hold off wave action. Construction of a levee requires excavation and there are limits.

Mr. Campbell questioned the permitting requirements for the geotube. Mr. Dixon explained that permits will be needed from NJDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Dixon also explained that the Army Corps will allow the permit as a Nationwide permit which does not require mitigation. Permitting through NJDEP can be expedited if needed but the ACOE does not do emergency permitting. When it is time the permit applications will be submitted simultaneously to NJDEP and ACOE.

Mr. Whildin stated the present problem is what to do to make it through winter. It was pointed out that sandbags do work better than loose sand and Mr. Campbell suggested 'bin blocks'. Mr. Benigno suggested if 'bin blocks' are utilized that they should be placed behind the sandbags and to tightly place the sandbags. Mr. Campbell offered that Kennedy Concrete is a supplier of 'bin blocks' at a cost of \$100 each. It was discussed that NJDEP has allocated \$10,000 for 'sandbags' but can look at the 'bin blocks' for the temporary measure. It was further discussed that the county and township will need to supply the resources for installation of the bin blocks and the bin blocks will need to be removed prior to the installation of the geotube. It was discussed that the NJDEP will need to supply a permit for the bin block installation (emergency).

Kate Marcopul explained that funding for the 'interim' measure fix (geotube) is through the National Park Service and that this funding 'shaped' the type of fix that can be used. The geotube will prevent erosion and preserve the lighthouse. Mr. Dixon offered that a 'scour' apron will be needed with the installation of the geotube. Mr. Benigno pointed out that the maximum excavation is 5 feet below grade.

Ms. Marcopul explained that the funding from the National Park Service has been extended to September 30, 2019 and reports of progress are made to the National Park Service. Ms. Gross questioned if further extension could be requested. Ms. Marcopul said possibly.

Ms. Dorothy Guzzo, asked that the moisture inside the lighthouse be looked at to see what damage is being done. Mr. Ceponis agreed that measures to keep the lighthouse dryer need to be examined.

Mr. Whitaker asked about the life expectancy of the geotube and will this be contracted through a request for proposals.

Robin Madden will verify if this is going to be contracted through RFP; Mr. Benigno advised that the life expectancy hopefully will be 10 years but they have been known to last 20. Mr. Morrissey offered that a geotube was installed in the Atlantic City area in 1997 and is still functioning.

Mr. Stowman pointed out that the Northwest fetch is the worst section of the area and questioned if the boat ramp at East Point was being left. The boat ramp will be left.

Mr. Knoop asked if there were any long-term plans for the Bayshore Cove. Mr. Golden confirmed this topic needs to be discussed but the matter at hand is regarding East Point and the lighthouse. Mr. Dixon, NJDEP, stated that partnering to discuss a plan for shore protection with the Army Corps, Maurice River, Commercial Township and Cumberland County should be done in the future.

Mrs. Gross questioned if the geotube will affect the parking at the lighthouse. It was discussed that presently the parking area is not adequate for large events. Mr. Golden pointed out that originally the parking area was for the boat ramp and that at present it is best to focus on the lighthouse protection and then address the parking problem. Mr. Dixon stated that the geotube construction will take approximately 2 months to complete and there will be no public access to the area during that time. Mr. Benigno pointed out that the contractor must stabilize the parking area to complete the construction; therefore once the project is complete the parking area should be in better shape than it is presently.

Mr. Stowman provided that presently the tidal waters and foot traffic are causing damage to the berms.

Nancy Patterson was advised that her first point of contact regarding issues around the lighthouse should be Jason Hearon. Should Mr. Whildin have 'work' concerns at the lighthouse he should contact Mr. Hearon but can also reach out to Mr. Golden. Mr. Hearon and Mr. Whildin confirmed that they presently have an open line of communication.

Further discussion took place regarding the temporary fix and the use of 'bin blocks'. A NJDEP permit for the temporary work will be needed. Mr. Knoop pointed out that bin block can be tossed around by wave action. Mr. Golden suggested going to the site to discuss a plan of action for the temporary fix(es) to get through until the construction of the geotube. The NJDEP, Cumberland County and Maurice River Township agreed to work together on the temporary fix(es); equipment that is capable of accessing the beach area will be needed.

Final points of the meeting: the interim work, geotube, will start after June 15<sup>th</sup> (at the earliest); requests for proposals have been requested for the long-term feasibility study; reconvene in a year to discuss the area (hopefully the feasibility study is complete).

Mr. Dixon suggested that extra bags be made available to make it easier to replace damaged sandbags being used for the temporary fix(es). Mr. Oliver questioned if 'slurry' could be used; Mr. Bukowski stated this would only be a 'stop gap'.

Mr. Golden advised everyone that Rutgers has developed a 'flood mapper' which indicates the predicted sea level rise over time.

Mr. Dixon provided that the estimated cost to move lighthouse which was part of the ACOE study is in the millions.

Mr. Bukowski stated that the once the geotube is installed there must be managed access. Ultimately everyone must stay off the geotube (no access). Mr. Dixon stated an access point to the beach and water will be provided but signs should be emplaced advising 'no access' to the geotube.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Oliver made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Whildin.

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Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk