

Bike, Pedestrian Advisory Committee Starts

By Vince Conti Jun 16, 2017



CAPE MAY – Bicycling and walking have become increasingly popular forms of exercise and recreation.

Cape May has joined a list of municipalities where governing bodies want the best advice they can get on the policies, programs, and priorities most likely to increase safety and promote modes of transportation that do not involve motor vehicles.

To that end, Cape May City Council approved a resolution June 5 that established a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Articulating a goal of "safe walkways and bike paths," the resolution stated that the current city administration wants to seek more federal and state resources for streets, sidewalks and bike paths, take action to repair sidewalks where needed and promote an educational program for safety of pedestrians, bike riders and users of slow-moving vehicles.

Anyone who has experienced the city at the height of its season knows the competition that ensues among walkers, bicyclists, cars, skateboarders and the like.

The resolution sets many objectives for the committee including a review of the condition of city sidewalks, beach access for those with mobility challenges, bike path repairs and extensions, and general promotion of safety education programs.

Council member Patricia Grey Hendricks will serve as the governing body's liaison to the committee which will be chaired by ex-council member William Murray.

Other members include Hillary Pritchard, Harry Black, Jesse Lambert, James Moffatt, Peter Hardy, Gus Mosso and Michelle Boyt.

The resolution also states that the city will work to include a Bike and Pedestrian Plan in its master plan.

The committee is advisory to the council but it will have a wide scope. There is even the possibility that small watercraft would be added to the committee's purview.

Council's resolution gives the committee the task of reviewing requirements for local bicycle and low-speed vehicle rental companies.

In 2016, the state Transportation Department published its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan citing the fact that bicycling and walking are "smart transportation solutions that conserve energy, promote public health and protect the environment." With the state stepping up to "invest" in bicycling and walking, grant funds may become more available.

The promotion of bicycling and walking is part of a culture shift, and the city's new committee places the county's namesake resort squarely in the game.

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