



The Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY ADMINISTRATION

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NOT A REPORT GIVEN EACH MONTH

January 2012 – MUA - Work is proceeding apace on the replacement of the waste pipes alongside Avalon Boulevard. Depending on weather conditions the work should end by May 31. There was a slight delay when the old pipe was broken and had to be repaired. The old piping will be filled with grout to prevent collapse.

ENVIRONMENTAL Armacost Park

The Secretary outlined the reasons why the Environmental Commission and the Borough felt it was necessary to study the ecology of the Park. There are concerns about the proliferation of the invasive plant phragmites and about the pond that was becoming filled with detritus and could result in a breeding area for mosquitoes and other biting insects. The fact that the pond was filling in also results in a decrease in the availability of fresh water for fauna to drink and as a source of food.

Michael Matt indicated that the Borough is working with two consultants to conduct a science-based study to determine the situation in the park. Amongst other things the study will determine the extent of the salt and fresh water ponds, an inventory of the flora and fauna in the park and the ground water level.

The President read the draft of a letter to Borough Council that indicates AHLOA is in favor of these studies being conducted. Sue Ellenberg proposed and Jim Thatcher seconded a motion authorizing the President to send the letter to Borough Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Beautification of Avalon Boulevard

The Environmental Commission has been asked to make recommendations for ground cover & foliage;

December 2011 - Work is proceeding apace on the replacement of all three waste pipes alongside Avalon Boulevard. The work is on schedule. The pipes will cross over to the south side of the Boulevard just to the west of the 30* Street bridge and join up with the pipes already in place.

There was a public hearing on the 2012 budget. There did not appear to be any controversy.

November 2011 – ENVIRONMENT- A summary was given of the proposed study that is being carried out in Armacost Park. A report on that study will be forthcoming and will have a bearing on possible future studies.

mua - The contractor was two weeks late in starting the work on the pipeline on Avalon Boulevard. The end date has not changed. Two lanes of traffic are open, but there is no shoulder.

There was notification that meetings will be held on December 7 on the budget for 2012. Proposed tipping fees for domestic waste remain at \$65, commercial fees at \$70. Waste water rates could increase by 1.9%.

October 2011 – MUA - It is not known where work will start on the new force main along Avalon Boulevard. This will not be known until after test borings have been carried out.



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MUA has learned that the company that provided the coloring for the wood chips sold by MUA has gone out of business. MUA will revert back to the original method of marketing uncolored chips.

September 2011 - ENVIRONMENT A report was given on the two public hearings that were held on studies to rehabilitate Armacost Park.

MUA - There was no damage to the infrastructure as a result of hurricane Irene.

Bids have been received for the replacement of the force pipe along Avalon Boulevard. The Authority voted to award a \$6.7 million contract. Two completion dates have been indicated - Phase 1 by June 2012 and Phase 2 (final paving) by November 2012. It is expected that work will start around the end of September.

The recycling tonnage continues to decrease, however, the payments received are increasing.

July 2011 – Environmental - A public hearing on the concept of the rehabilitation project for Armacost Park will be held by the Environmental Commission on July 19.

MUA - Bids are being received for replacement of the pipeline on Avalon Boulevard. It is hoped that the bids will be opened on schedule on July 17.

Despite the fact that the tonnage of recyclables received in the first four months of 2011 were less than the same period of 2010, about \$250,000 more has been received from the sale of materials.

June 2011 – Environment: A contract has been issued to remove dead trees that could present a safety hazard from beach paths between 35th and 80th Streets. MUA - Fred Pracht All permits have been received for replacement of the pipeline on Avalon Boulevard. It is hoped that bids will go out on June 17 with the contract to be awarded in July.

May 2011 – MUA: It was reported that county-wide the amount of recyclables was down, although the price was up. As a result Avalon would get a rebate of about \$30,000.

The odor problem at the 39th Street pump station has been solved. A control panel at an auxiliary station at 15th Street was not working properly. This has been repaired. Bids for the pipeline repairs on Avalon Boulevard are due to go out in June, if all permitting has been received from the State. All plastics can now be recycled.

Environment - A draft of the study to restore Armacost Park has been developed and is undergoing review.

March 2011 - The Commission has approved submission of an application for a Sustainable New Jersey grant under the auspices of ANJEC and has submitted a request to Borough Council for a resolution of understanding and support for a grant to develop an Environmental Resource Inventory for the Borough.

The Green Team is putting the final touches to a project on three islands in Dune Drive that will compare water usage using three different systems.

February 2011 – MUA - There has been no solution to the cause of the odors coming from the 39th Street pumping station in Avalon. People are asked to contact the MUA immediately an odor is detected by calling the main number (465-9026). In this way there is a better chance that the source of the problem can be determined.



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ENVIRONMENT - The annual dune grass planting event will be held on Saturday, April 30 with a rain date of May 1.

A meeting has been scheduled with contractors regarding the requirements of the Community Forestry and Dune Vegetation Management Plans.

January 2011 - The Governor has signed into law legislation that requires electronic equipment to be recycled, and not discarded as garbage. The CMC MUA accepts such materials at the Landfill and the Transfer Station. Residents will have to bring these materials to either of these locations at any time they are open. As a result of this legislation there is now no charge for dropping off these materials.

There have been complaints about the odors coming from the 39th Street pumping station in Avalon. Work had been done to improve the situation but there still are problems. People are asked to contact the MUA immediately an odor is detected by calling the main number (465-9026) and ask for Bill Cathcart. In this way there is a better chance that the source of the problem can be determined.

December 2010 - The MUA has given approval for moneys to obtain permits to cover any salt/fresh water intrusion in the wetlands during the Avalon pipe replacement.

Equipment has been received and is being installed at the Woodbine landfill to permit the landfill gas to energy project to proceed.

Rate increases of 2% for waste water and landfill fees were approved.

Notification has been received that the Community Forestry Management Plan has been approved. An evaluation of trees along the beach paths has been carried out with a view to locating dead trees that could be a hazard to the public.

For a number of years the Borough has exceeded its water allocation from the State. A study will be carried out during the spring and summer of 2011 to compare water used on three neighboring islands on Dune Drive. One island will have the current irrigation system, one will have new sprinkler heads and "smart" systems to control water flow and the third will have an underground system. Equipment is being donated, work will be done by landscapers and the usage will be monitored by the Borough DPW. Results will be available by the time of the next Green Fair in October 2011.

November 2010 - The MUA has received State approval for financing the replacement of the wastepipes on Avalon Boulevard. Final engineering plans are on schedule. All permits should be in place by May and it is hoped to go out for bid in July. Construction should start late in the year.

[NOTE: The schedule listed above is a correction on that given out at this Trustee meeting.]

MUA has projected that the solid waste and waste water budgets would increase by about 1.9% each. The solid waste cost is projected to increase by 50 cents a ton – the first increase in many years. There will be Public Hearings on the budgets on December 1. It was reported that a Community Forestry Management Plan had been submitted to the State for approval. The Plan incorporates the Dune Vegetation Management Plan that had been approved earlier by Borough Council.

One of the elements of the plan involves a study of dead or dying trees along the community beach paths that could create a public hazard. It was noted that a number of trees at the 35th Street



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beach path had been killed by the professional administration of herbicide. This case is under police investigation.

September 2010 - There has been no approval from the State as yet for replacement of the waste pipe on Avalon Boulevard. Money is not available. The final engineering plans have yet to be developed and this will not be done until finances are available. Work will not start until 2011 at the earliest.

July 2010 – MUA -The main topic of discussion has been the financial settlement of claims related to the waste pipe breaks in Avalon Manor. Water pipes along Avalon Boulevard will be replaced in the Fall, with the work completed by Memorial Day 2011.

The Environmental Commission presented a proposal to Borough Council to carry out a study to renovate Armacost Park. There will be further discussion at the July 14 Council Meeting. AHLOA has been invited by Council to participate in discussions.

June 2010 - The President reported that the Environmental Commission is working on a proposal to renovate Armacost Park and will present a plan to Borough Council at the June 23rd Council meeting. Additionally, the Borough is awaiting receipt of a signed Memorandum of Agreement before starting work on the pilot project under the Dune Vegetation Management Plan.

MUA - In the absence of the Committee Chair, the President reported on the latest information on waste-pipe replacement on Avalon Boulevard:

Received department. approval on the initial engineering plans;

State financing is moving forward for zero percent interest loan;

Tentative start date for pipe replacement is Spring 2011 with completion prior to Summer;

No additional pipe breakdowns have occurred.

May 2010 - A report was given on the status of the nesting birds on the beach. In addition to nests in the protected area (40th to 58th Street) a piping plover nest has been noted between 59th and 60th Streets, and an American Oystercatcher nest between 67th and 68th Streets. Both these areas have been protected with symbolic fencing.

March 2010 - The MUA indicated that work on the project to replace the waste and gray water lines on Avalon Boulevard is somewhat dependent on financing through the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program. MUA will learn in November if the project qualifies and in January 2011 what financing will be awarded. No work can be done until that time or the financing will be lost. Should a series of leaks occur that would necessitate emergency replacement the work will be done earlier.

The annual dune grass planting event will take place on Saturday, April 17 (rain date April 18) at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

Feb 2010 - The MUA has approved a contract to replace the waste pipes on Avalon Boulevard near Avalon Mano

Jan 2010 - A summary of the proposed Dune Vegetation Management Plan was given. The document has been presented to Borough Council at the December 23



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Dec 2009 - A summary of the proposed Dune Vegetation Management Plan was given. The document will be presented to Borough Council at the December 23 meeting.

Oct 2009 - Joe Lomax, Lomax Consulting Group, made a presentation to the Planning and Zoning Board on the Dune Vegetation Management Plan that he has been acting as a consultant to help the Environmental Commission prepare. The program could apply to the dunes from 8th to 80th Streets and is designed to look at monocultures that may exist with the idea of modifying them to prevent the effects of disease and insect damage that could compromise the stability of the dune environment.

May 2009 - It has been reported that while the tonnage of waste being handled by the MUA has decreased because of the economic situation the tonnage of recyclable material has increased. The financial rates obtained for recyclable materials has fallen

March 2009 - The MUA has refinanced a \$4.6 million bond issue at a considerably lower interest rate.

Because of the economic situation it appears that the annual rebate for recycled materials will be considerably lower than originally expected. The Borough has applied for, and was recently awarded a grant through the 2009 Green Communities Challenge Grant Program to develop a Forestry Management plan that would include trees in the dunes.

The Environmental Commission is developing a plan to pro-actively replace Japanese Black Pines in a few areas of the dunes with indigenous plant materials in order to minimize the potential effects of disease and insects

January 2009 It was reported that although the total tonnage of waste is decreasing, mainly due to the reduction in construction operations in the County, the amount of recyclable materials, and hence the ratio, is increasing. Recently the prices obtained for recycled materials is dropping and this price decline may affect the rebates given to the communities in 2010.

December 2008 The Environmental Commission has been working with Joe Lomax, Lomax Environmental Consulting, to develop a plan for maintenance of dune vegetation, and at the same time plan for the possible replacement of Japanese Black Pine in several areas with non invasive native species.

November 2008 Dredging has started on the project encompassing Long Reach and Whale Harbor. The dredging was delayed by the need for additional pipe. The project will be completed by December 31 in order to protect the winter flounder. The project is being paid for by the State. Twenty plus residents in the area will have their own slips dredged, as a result they are included in the project permit.

It is unlikely that the State will pay for the channel to be dredged again for 25 years. Future dredging plans will depend on obtaining a use for the dredge materials after they have dried out and can be removed from the collection site to enable more materials to be put there.

November 2008 Re:MUA Preliminary approval has been given to the 2009 budget. Formal budget hearings will be held on December 2 at 4:30 p.m. (Wastewater) and 6:30 p.m.



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(Solid Waste). At this time it appears there will be a 3.9% increase in the wastewater rate and, for the first time in 14 years, an increase in the solid waste rates. There has been a 100,000 ton reduction in the amount of waste handle by the MUA since 2005, although the amount of recyclables has increased.

The MUA is looking into ways to use the excess gas that is coming off the landfill without having to build another flare. Possible uses include generation of additional electricity or purifying the gas to a higher BTU and feeding it into the South Jersey Gas distribution system.

October 2008 The MUA has reported that the tonnage of waste that has been handled is with the biggest decrease in the category of construction waste.

An agreement has been reached with the Pinelands Commission over the plans to expand the landfill. The area that was originally being considered has been found to be home to the red headed woodpecker and an eleven acre buffer has been set aside for protection purposes.