

# Borough delays adopting dune repair ordinance

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Harvey Cedars has decided to hold off on introducing an ordinance that would require beachfront homeowners to pay repairs to dunes on their property.

Meanwhile, Long Beach Township officials have decided to look into it.

Both municipalities decided to look into the idea after Surf City approved a similar ordinance earlier this year.

Harvey Cedars Mayor Jonathan Oldham said it was not the right time to introduce the ordinance. At the June 2 Board of Commissioners meeting, an ordinance similar to the one that was approved in Surf City was ready to be introduced, but Oldham held off.

The ordinance was tabled to a future date, yet to be determined.

"Right now, I do not think that it is the right time," Oldham said. "I think by doing that, it would cause more animosity between everyone."

The Surf City ordinance states beachfront homeowners would have to pay for dune repairs if they are needed. The repairs could either be made by a private contractor or be done by the borough. If they are done by the borough, the owner would have to pay for the repairs. The ordinance also states all dunes on private property must meet a standard that will be developed by the township engineer.

"The mayor and governing body of the borough of Surf City finds and declares that the protection of the dunes from the ravages of the Atlantic Ocean storms, hurricanes and high winds is essential to the protection of persons and property and for the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality," the ordinance reads. "The beach-dune system is the front line of protection for the life and property of the borough."

Surf City Mayor Leonard T. Connors Jr. said the ordinance was needed because continuing to fill private property was becoming too expensive.

Long Beach Township officials are in the process of exploring a similar type of ordinance to combat the beach erosion issue.

"We are in talks with our attorney," said Long Beach Township Commissioner Robert Palmer, who heads public works. "It's something that we have to look at."

Mayor DiAnne C. Gove said it's something the township has to take a long look at before moving on.

"We have to look into it," Gove said. "It's something that we cannot rush into."

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