



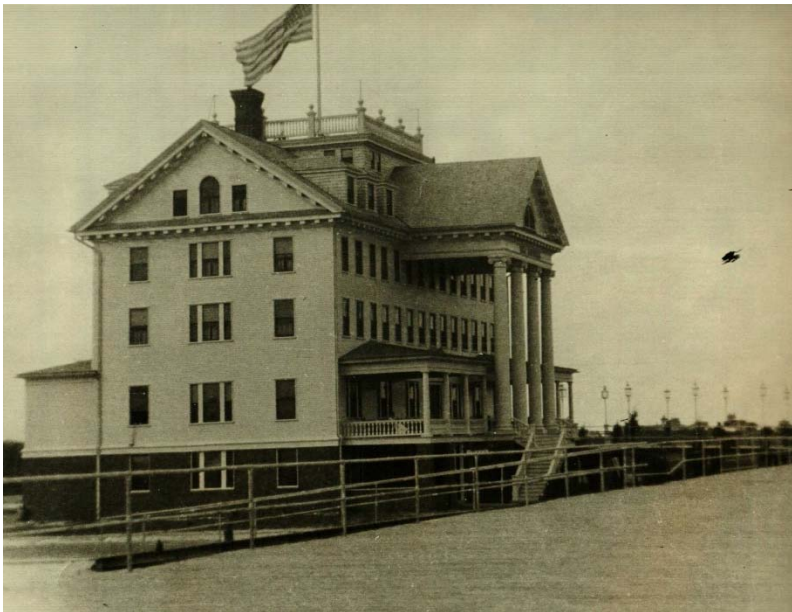
(The following is an excerpt from *Borough of Anglesea: 1885-1906* by W. Scott Jett, City Clerk)

Council received, on January 6, 1904, correspondence from J. Fithian Tatem (Vice-President of the Five Mile Beach Electric Railway Company, but in this instance writing as a representative of the North Wildwood Land Company and a Borough property owner) in reference to the building of an oceanfront Boardwalk, along Surf Avenue, from 16th to 26th Avenue. Mayor Hilton appointed himself, the Solicitor, and all members of Council (as he had in 1900) as the Boardwalk Committee and named Saturday, January 9 at 1:00 pm as the time in which the Committee would meet with the persons mentioned in the correspondence signed by Tatem.ⁱ The meeting was to take place at Borough Hall, and although no record or minutes exist of the meeting, the proposal of Tatem, et al. was evidently favorable as the following was recorded by Clerk Shivers on February 4: "The matter of building a Boardwalk on the ocean front from 16th Avenue to the southwest line of the Borough of Anglesea was then taken up and after being discussed by the members of Council and citizens present the Borough Engineer read a copy of specifications for building a Boardwalk for the purpose of giving Council an opportunity of suggesting alterations thereto and after several alterations were suggested an Ordinance relating to building a Boardwalk which is No. 38 was placed and passed on first reading and referred to the Ordinance Committee."ⁱⁱⁱ



This was not to be a ground level Boardwalk, nor was it designed to be taken apart and stored for the winter months. Anglesea would be the first municipality on Five Mile Beach to build a truly elevated Boardwalk (about eight feet above ground), one designed to be a permanent fixture on the oceanfront. Wildwood's Atlantic Avenue Boardwalk was 12 feet wide; the Surf Avenue Boardwalk in Anglesea would be 32 feet wide, with entrances in the form of steps or ramps at each street end.ⁱⁱⁱ Final specifications were approved by Council on February 18,^{iv} Ordinance No. 38 was adopted on February 25,^v and Council authorized the receipt of bids on March 23, 1904 at 9:00 pm in Borough Hall. Council couldn't really dispute or disagree with the proposal to build a Boardwalk, as the property owners on Surf Avenue had agreed to pay for most of it:

"Ordinance No. 38 – An ordinance to provide for the construction of a Boardwalk along Surf Avenue in the Borough of Anglesea. Whereas, the owners of property abutting on Surf Ave., between 16th and 26th Avenues, in the Borough of Anglesea, have agreed to build a Boardwalk *at their own expense* along the northwesterly line of Surf Avenue, provided the Borough of Anglesea will build a Boardwalk across the intersections of the avenues running at right angles to said Surf Avenue, within the limits aforesaid, and the necessary approaches thereto; and Whereas, in the judgment of this Council it is for the best interests of the Borough of Anglesea that such Boardwalk be built...(italics added)"^{vi}



Thus, the property owners would pay for the Boardwalk to be built in front of their respective properties, while the Borough would be responsible for the costs of continuing the Boardwalk across the intersections of the side streets, and the ramps and/or steps approaching the Boardwalk. In total, property owners would pay for 2,000 feet of the structure, while the Borough would pay for 660 feet plus approaching ramps/steps.^{vii} John Taylor's March 23 bid of \$12,579 was accepted.^{viii} Cost for the 2,660 feet (at 32 feet wide) would be about \$0.15 per square foot of Boardwalk surface, with the Borough's bill (minus approaches) being \$3,121;^{ix}

Ordinance No. 43 had provided \$3,000 for Boardwalk construction.^x When Taylor presented his performance bond on April 7, Council authorized execution of the contract.^{xi}



ⁱ Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 406.

ⁱⁱ Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 414.

ⁱⁱⁱ Francis, Francis and Scully, *Wildwood-by-the-Sea*, 33.

^{iv} Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 419, 421.

^v Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 421.

^{vi} See Borough of Anglesea Ordinances, Book 1, 83.

^{vii} See 1909 Sanborn Maps, Sheets 53 & 54.

^{viii} Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 429.

^{ix} Five Mile Beach Journal, March 23, 1904: "The cost to the borough of the new boardwalk will be about \$3000. The balance will be borne by Henry H. Ottens and the North Wildwood Land Co., who own a greater part of the land along the walk. This agreement was entered into between the parties some time ago."

^x Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 428.

^{xi} Borough of Anglesea Minutes, Volume 2, 431. See also the Philadelphia Inquirer, March 28, 1904.

