

# Middlesex Beach Quietly Governs Self

MIDDLESEX BEACH — While a portion of the beach area south of Bethany Beach is embroiled in battle on whether or not to incorporate as a Delaware municipality, a small portion of the area (245 lots) is going ahead with an efficient type of government.

The Middlesex Beach Corp. with five directors has been in existence since 1959 and has been quietly running its own government.

The Middlesex Beach, which is marked by highly restrictive building codes, has been levying its own assessments for street and beach care for many years.

It is not incorporated as a town, but has been formally incorporated as a private corporation.

Just recently the corporation adopted a restriction on building during the summer months and entered into discussion concerning interpretation of the restrictive building codes.

They will hire two of the lifeguards tested at trials held last Saturday in Bethany Beach. These guards will go on duty at the Middlesex private beach begin-

ning June 26.

The building restriction prohibits building from being started after June 1. It provides that construction begun before June 1 must be limited to the hours of 9 am until 4:30 pm during the summer months.

The interpretation of building codes concerns whether or not a roof or porch is considered in the distance buildings are required to be removed from common property lines. It was pointed out that if such items are taken into consideration in the law that the size of the beach homes could be severely restricted.

Aside from the minor differences on interpretation of codes the Middlesex corporation, which is formally incorporated, presents a real contrast of efficiency to the informal South Bethany Association, which has been marked by bitter fights over becoming a town.

The five directors of the corporation are: Guy Stringer, president; Philip Short, treasurer; Marjorie Errett, secretary; Dr. Richard A. Peoples, and Eugene Finn.

There has never been any formal talk of Middlesex and South Bethany joining in a single form of government, but the Middlesex charter allows for incorporation as a town or for annexation into a town. Observers believe that the Middlesex area will continue on its own for several years in order to maintain its restrictive building codes.