

The largest source of revenue was the property tax which took in a total of \$229,642.

"Nineteen cents is certainly not an excessive tax rate," Hamlin observed.

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At its September meeting, the Planning Board gave its approval to changes in the town's beach accessway ordinance as drafted by Clyde Lynn. It then submitted them to Town Attorney Ken Kirkman and the Coastal Management Office for comment before it goes to the Board of Commissioners who would set a public hearing if it approves the changes.

ACCESS

CHANGES

STUDIED

Under the proposed changes, it would be unlawful to walk across the dune to the beach at grade level and any work or play on the seaward face of the dune would be prohibited.

Each ocean front lot would be allowed one beach accessway and larger parcels zoned for multifamily, recreational, commercial or institutional use would be permitted one accessway for each 100 feet of ocean front.

Accessways would be of durable wood and would remain unpainted. The walkways would be not less than four feet nor more than six feet wide. They would remain open, without siding, underpinning or roofing and would be raised so that only posts would touch the dune. The observaton platform or overlook on a single family lot could not exceeet 160 square feet and those on parcels zoned for multifamily, recreational, commercial or institutional could not exceed 400 square feet. Platform floors would not be more than 3 feet above the natural crest of the dune. The beach steps could intrude onto the beach only to the extent necessary to prevent damage to the seaward face of the dune. Property owners would be required to relocate the beach steps if the dune should erode or retreat.

The proposed regulations would not affect existing beach assessways except when property owners sought to effect major repairs involving more than 50 percent of the existing structure. Then they would have to get a building permit under the new regulations.

During discussion of other matters, board member Harry Schlimper raised the question of what the town should do about houses on which builders had halted work during construction. Chairman George Falkenberg asked member Bob Whitmore to study the problem after Whitmore express the opinion the town needs an ordinance which would require a property owner who abandons construction of a house to clear and restore the lot.

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The Community Appearance Committee met on Tuesday October 2, at Town Hall and formed a new "friendly persuasion" sub-committee. Chairman Flo Garrett welcomed new member, Bob Dawson, and asked if he would chair the new committee, assisted by Mary Doll. Their plan is to talk with residents and property owners who are noticeably in violation of town ordinances and/or community standards. Many people are unaware of certain violations, and others may need advice on where to get assistance in removing unwieldy trash problems.

DAWSON HEADS

NEW COMMITTEE

One problem noted in several areas is sand washing off lots onto the streets, causing a washboard effect. Residents are asked to sweep excess sand back onto their lots.

Another problem is wooden trash can containers that are too close to the street. Only mailboxes and trees or shrubs that enhance the roadway are allowed in the right-of-way. The right-of-way is defined as 30 feet from the center of the street to the front of the lot.

Ann Hitch reported that she and Grant Roper had visited 9 residential sites that had requested building permits for small structures and recommended approval.