

Ocean Isle Considers Ferry Landing For Public Access

BY SUSAN USHER

With the help of a proposed state access grant, the old ferry landing on Ocean Isle Beach could become the town's first official public access area for estuarine waters.

Mayor LaDane Bullington said Monday that she envisions a boardwalk, benches for fishermen and a parking area along the waterway at the head of Shallotte Boulevard.

And, at the foot of the road, where erosion has taken its toll in the past, the town proposes additional oceanfront access parking, probably about 10 spaces, the mayor said.

"It is gorgeous down there," she said of the ferry landing, with Commissioner Marvin Stanley agreeing. "We would have the prettiest access area you could imagine."

The two areas would enhance what she says Ocean Isle Beach already has—"the best access situation in this whole county."

Mayor Bullington, Building Inspector T.D. Roberson and other employees have met with Bill Benton, county engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation, and with Julie Shambaugh, shorefront access coordinator with the Office of Coastal Management, and plan to talk with Rob Muhl of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development Wilmington office.

For the project to work, the town would have to take over only those portions of Shallotte Boulevard (which has been state-maintained in the past) needed to develop the access areas.

"Something needs to be done on Shallotte Avenue anyway," added Roberson, to keep vehicles from heading toward the oceanfront thinking the road extends farther than it does.

Commissioners authorized the mayor to continue preparing the grant proposal for final approval at the board's Sept. 9 meeting and submission to the Office of Coastal Management before the Sept. 18 deadline.

If approved the grant funds will come from beach/estuarine water access funds approved by the state

legislature this summer.

In another planning effort, the town voted to hire Talbert, Cox & Associates of Wilmington to do the 1986 update of the town's land use plan at a cost of \$9,000.

The town has received an \$8,000 planning grant from the Office of Coastal Management, which it will match with \$1,000 cash and \$1,000 in in-kind services.

The firm, one of three interested in the project, created the 1981 report. Commissioners said they expected the group to build on that first research, rather than starting over.

"We need to update the old, but little has changed," said the mayor. "We need to look at some new things such as thoroughfare plans, sidewalk planning, solid waste management."

And in this plan the town must cover storm hazard mitigation and post-disaster planning.

"We want to make sure we're getting something useful for our money, something that will do the town some good."

Trash Collection

Mayor Bullington appointed Commissioner Debbie Fox to head a committee to investigate alternative ways to supplement the town's trash collection service, specifically during the much busier summer months.

Since June 1984 the town has added 196 residential units, the mayor said. "So far—we've got the trash anyway," she said.

But the town needs to explore hiring a commercial firm to supplement its regular service, she added.

Roberson said that the town runs up to three trash trucks, which haul up to a total of nine loads per day, especially at the first of the week.

Extra pickup is needed most on weekends because Saturday is the day one group of renters checks out and another checks in, each move generating trash.

However, Mayor Bullington said that any effort to expand weekend collection efforts is complicated by landfill hours. The transfer station and landfill close at 5 p.m. Saturday, an expansion of hours from last summer, but close on Sundays after a brief experiment at the start of the

summer that drew little public activity.

Erosion Control

Ocean Isle's sedimentation and erosion control ordinance is good enough to serve as a model for the state, Mayor LaDane Bullington reported after she and Roberson met Tuesday morning with Gerald Kraynack of Wilmington and Taylor Currin of Raleigh, both employees of the land quality section of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Jacksonville and Ocean Isle are the only towns or counties in Kraynack's district that have ordinances other than the state's. Revised minimum standards applicable statewide will go into effect in late December or mid-January—even at Ocean Isle, where the mayor said, "We got an A-plus, 100 percent, a 10!"

"There was nothing blowing or running off anywhere," she said. The officers toured the beach and also inspected files and records and studied the existing ordinance.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners: •Agreed, at a citizen's reminder, to send out notices again in water bills reminding homeowners that house numbers are required by the town, particularly to aid in finding a home in case of an emergency. Roberson said that only about half of the town's 1,500 units are numbered.

•Agreed to have the town's street markers repainted and street signs erected at First and Second Streets.

•Heard that complaints about overgrown lots and an unpleasant odor from a sewage package plant had been investigated.

•After a public hearing at which no comments were heard, voted to add utility stations and substations to the zoning ordinance as permitted uses in single-family and two-family residential areas. The change was recommended by Attorney Elva Jess to accommodate the main sewer system pump station at the corner of Laurinburg and Second streets and similar structures, eliminating the need for requests for variances. The structures must be designed of similar quality and appearance with

First Responders Train At Ocean Isle

Ocean Isle policemen, firefighters and even the building inspector will soon be able to render the basics of emergency medical treatment on the scene of an accident.

Seventeen men and women, most either residents of the community, town employees or their wives, began a first responder course last week, Fire Chief Terry Barbee said. The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the fire station. Henry Carter of the Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad is the lead instructor, assisted by Dale Gaffney and Alex Mearns.

Barbee said make-up classes are still available to anyone else interested in signing up.

Fifty-one hours of training will give the students specific skills to render aid at the scene of an accident until an emergency medical technician (EMT) arrives. "What we can do, we will," he said.

The first responders will particularly supplement the work of three EMTs who either live on or work regularly at the beach—Dale Gaffney, Marty Cooke and Larry Evans.

A need for a first responder corps on the island had become increasingly evident at the beach over the past several months.

As Police Chief Jerry Gurganus told commis-

sioners Monday, "An ambulance has come over here two or three times a week all summer."

The worst road accident involved a young girl who fell from the back of a pickup truck. In an earlier water accident, two brothers drowned.

Gurganus and the town's other policemen and Building Inspector T.D. Roberson are enrolled, and Gurganus said that he will return to the town board to request funds to equip town cars.

Among the basics offered in the course are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, clearing of the airway, administration of oxygen and other basics intended to help stabilize the victim and determine the extent of injuries.

Ocean Isle Beach is served by the Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad, with the base located in Shallotte and members scattered across a wide area from Civietown to Sunset Beach.

"Through no one's fault," Barbee said, it sometimes takes a while for the rescue squad to arrive at Ocean Isle.

From there, the time required for the trip to the Brunswick Hospital at Supply may vary considerably depending upon traffic conditions.

In any case, Barbee said, having made one transport in his own car, "it seems like forever."

other structures in the neighborhood, said the mayor, so as not to be an "eyesore."

Left the filing fee for municipal offices unchanged, at \$5.

•Heard that Mayor LaDane Bullington would attend a regional emergency management workshop in Greenville today.

•Received copies of the town's codified ordinances, which collects into one volume all town ordinances, such as sediment and erosion control, subdivision, animal control, flood control, zoning, etc., and the town charter in a single volume. After a final proofing and publication, copies will be sold at cost to the public, as will copies of a second volume in development, "Building On The Beach," which excerpts all items related to building permits, construction and development.

•Heard from Police Chief Jerry Gurganus that the town's peddling ordinance was facing a test of its constitutionality in Brunswick County Superior Court on appeal of a case in which the ordinance was upheld in district court. He said that the beach community had experienced a rash of larcenies last week as had other communities in the south end of the county.

Heard from Building Inspector T.D. Roberson that 15 building permits were issued in July, with \$9328 in fees collected on construction with a valuation of \$621,000. Only permit was for a duplex, one for a commercial building, the rest for single-family housing or repairs. He said applications for multi-family permits were on hold, apparently pending completion of the town sewer system.

•Voted to have Henry Von Oesen & Associates do the design work for water line extensions to Ocean Isle Resort complex on the west end. The town has the work done to its specifications. But under the subdivision

ordinance, the developer or other affected parties must reimburse the full cost, first putting up 25 percent of the project cost in advance. Design work will cost no more than \$2,000, with a total project cost of about \$19,000.

•The bill for county water used in July came to \$10,025.10, Clerk Alberta Tatum reported. While the town was not damaged by Hurricane Bob, Inspector Roberson said renters used hoses to wash sand off the decks, rather than waiting for it to dry and sweeping it away. That could account for any high water bills homeowners received, he added.

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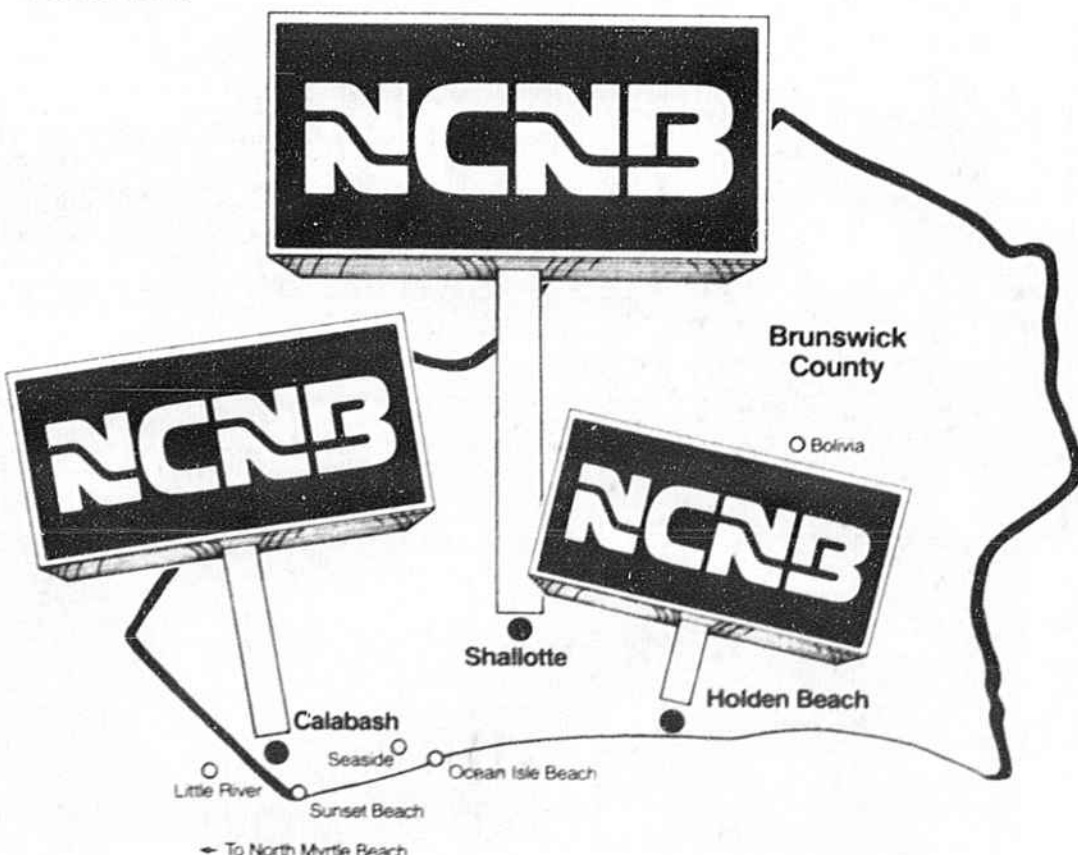
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