



THE SHADED AREA outlines the part of the causeway being eyed by the Holden Beach Town Board for possible annexation to the town. Opponents say the plan is drawn to "exclude roads that need work and people needing water."

At present, the town limits are in the middle of the Intracoastal Waterway.

## Causeway Residents Seek Annexation Alternatives

(Continued From Page 1-A)

"So many feet of the proposed area has to be adjacent to the present border of the town," said Holden. "Most of the area is on the waterway because of that formula. You can't just go down through the woods."

Holden said the map is not final and that every town board meeting is open. The town will also hold a public hearing on annexation, which anyone interested can attend.

Holden said as a North Holden Beach property owner he wants to know what the leaders of the proposed new town would offer, and what they could offer that Holden Beach couldn't.

The annexation opposition group nominated causeway area residents Jarrett Elliott, J.W. Robinson,

Thomas Gray, David Roundtree and Clemmons to serve as a committee to look into ways to avoid annexation. They plan to attend several Holden Beach Planning Board meetings and provide input on how causeway residents feel about annexation.

Holden Beach Commissioner Lyn Holden, who operates businesses on the causeway, also attended the meeting and told the crowd that all of the town board's meetings are open, and anyone can attend.

When asked why Holden Beach is considering annexation, he said, "I can't speak for the board, only for myself. But if the town ever grows it will have to grow this way. I think this is the obvious reason."

Holden Beach Planning and Zoning Board Member Gil Bass and resident

Alan Dameron also attended the meeting.

Rep. E. David "Butch" Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach also spoke to the group, at Clemmons' request. Redwine hesitated because he said he attended the meeting with the intention of listening.

Redwine told the crowd that in 1983 the League of Municipalities was part of a push to re-work annexation and incorporation laws. It was because of the lobbying efforts of the league, which represents about 400 to 500 municipalities, that towns can now annex without the vote of the people in the proposed area.

He said residents could take the fight to the courts, although that method has not been successful in stopping annexation in the past.

"That's not to say that the courts wouldn't rule in your favor," he added.

The move could work, continued Redwine, if opponents could prove that Holden Beach was attempting to annex an area against the wishes of its residents and that the area could in no way benefit from annexation.

He said residents could ask the legislature to allow the people to vote on it, or even pass a bill saying Holden Beach couldn't annex the area.

"Whether or not 61 people in the House and 26 in the Senate would pass such a bill, I don't know," said Redwine.

The league frowns upon incorporation to stop annexation or on saying a

town can't annex an area because it would allow for a "hodge-podge" of different laws across the state, he continued. "They feel that without some mechanism for orderly growth the towns would stagnate."

Two vocal proponents of annexation, Community Hardware owner Billy Smith and inland Realty owner O'Neil Calson, both said causeway businesses wouldn't exist without the beach.

"When I look across that bridge I see a billion-dollar business going on. I would rather pay out a couple of dollars and see something grow than to sit here with my few dollars, in my hand," said Smith.

Smith said that the Holden Beach Police Department is first to respond

to calls from the causeway.

"They do come and help out," he said. "And they don't have to do that; we don't pay taxes."

He said he is in favor of annexation, but not incorporation. "You can incorporate, but without taxes you're not going anywhere," said Smith.

"This beach has always furnished our livelihood," he added.

Calson said "We've heard a lot about Holden Beach—frankly it's fed a few of us. It's fed me and my kids."

He told Clemmons, "Without Holden Beach you wouldn't have a business here—I wouldn't."

"If I had the say, and I've got a right good bit of property here, I'd have to go with the Town of Holden Beach taking me in."

## Extra-Territorial Rights No Option For Holden Beach

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

In the Holden Beach quandary over annexation or incorporation of the causeway, one option not publicly considered by the town board of commissioners is extra-territorial jurisdiction.

The town recently filed a letter of intent to pursue a study of annexation possibilities, drawing an angry response from some causeway residents who have held two meetings to discuss incorporating their community. In neither group was the issue of extra-territorial jurisdiction raised.

State law allows any town to pass an ordinance by which it exercises jurisdiction over all territory within one mile of its city limits. If it has a population of more than 10,000, it can ask the General Assembly for an ad-

ditional mile of jurisdiction, with approval of the county's commissioners.

The powers given a town over this area include nearly everything but the right to levy taxes, according to Jake Wicker of the Institute of Government. "It can do zoning and land use planning, give building permits, and make subdivision regulations," he said. "However, if the county is enforcing any of these, the town cannot do so." He added that police powers of the town do not extend to the extra-territorial area.

William Williamson, Holden Beach commissioner, said his board has never considered this option in its moves toward annexation of the causeway.

The board has filed a letter of intent, involving a thorough study of

the area in question, to determine the feasibility of annexation.

"I wouldn't want extra-territorial jurisdiction," Williamson said, "because I don't want to impose our will on someone without their representation."

An area under the jurisdiction of an adjacent town has representation only on the town's planning board. While persons living in the extra-territorial area are appointed to a planning board, they are usually permitted to vote only on matters per-

taining to their area.

Williamson said, "Planning boards only recommend, but the town council makes the decisions. People should have the opportunity to be represented on the town board that makes decisions regarding them."

The current interest in annexation was explained this way by the commissioner: "We never considered annexation in our meetings, but then (State Rep.) Redwine introduced a bill to incorporate North Holden Beach. So we sat down and realized

where Holden Beach was going. That's the only way it can grow."

He called the causeway, "a natural part of Holden Beach," and said there can be a peaceful solution to the present controversy. "We all need to work together instead of fighting each other," he said.

Cletis Clemmons, a causeway business man who leads the incorporation effort, has said Holden Beach selected for possible annexation only portions of the causeway

that already had all services.

In response, Williamson said his board was following a state formula in drawing its map and considering specific areas for annexation. "We don't have money to re-do all the streets, it's not a matter of leaving anyone out," he said. "We just don't jump in and bite off more than we could chew."

He added that, "Most people I've talked to would prefer annexation to incorporation."

John Harvey, planning director for Brunswick County, said only three municipalities in the county have opted for extra-territorial jurisdiction. Southport and Sunset Beach have all possible jurisdiction, while Calabash only issues building permits.

## Marina Rules To Get Hearing

The Coastal Resources Commission will hear public comments on two proposed rule changes during its Jan. 22-23 meeting in Beaufort.

Public hearings will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 22 on a proposed change in marina standards that would enable a marina to be built in areas without existing shellfish resources, if the project would not violate water quality standards.

Also, the rules for pier construction would be revised so that only private, non-commercial activities would be exempt from obtaining a major development permit.

Before the public hearings, the commission will hear a report on the damage caused by the coastal storms during December, 1986.

Members will consider municipal and technical appointments to the

Coastal Resources Advisory Council. Ocean Isle Beach Mayor LaDane Bullington serves on the council as a representative of the Cape Fear Council of Governments. Rosetta Short of Yaupon Beach serves as a municipal appointment. Among the nominees for municipal appointments are Mayor John Tandy of Holden Beach and Maynard Owens of Shallotte.

## More Rain, Normal Temps Ahead

Near normal temperatures along with above average rainfall are expected for the area over the next few days.

According to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady, daytime temperatures will range in the mid-50s, while nighttime lows are

expected to be in the mid-30s. About three-quarters of an inch of rain is also expected, he said.

For the period of Jan. 13-18, Canady reported a maximum high of 87 degrees recorded on Jan. 14, and a low of 30 degrees recorded on Jan. 15.

The daily average high was 60 degrees and the average low 41 degrees during that period, he said. The two combined for a daily average temperature of 51 degrees.

He measured an above average 1.28 inches of rainfall during the period.

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