

# Holden Beach Candidates Express Similar Views At Forum

BY DOUG RUTTER

While uncommitted at times, Holden Beach commissioner candidates agreed on the majority of issues addressed during the biennial "Meet The Candidates" program last Tuesday at the town hall.

All nine candidates running for three available seats on the town board of commissioners and Mayor John Tandy, who is unopposed in his bid for re-election, presented their views on issues that included proposed causeway annexation, a possible sewerage system, rezoning practices and the town's land use plan.

The panel discussion was sponsored by the Holden Beach Property Owners Association and chaired by POA President Kenner Amos. Following brief biographical introductions, candidates took turns answering prepared questions. At least one candidate, Bob Buck, questioned the rotation system used, which had candidates answer all questions in the same order.

## Causeway Annexation

While none of the candidates supported forced annexation, most expressed the view that future annexation would be inevitable and beneficial to the town and causeway.

Martin Feldt said, "It is the entrance to Holden Beach. I would like to see it become a part of Holden Beach." He added that careful discussion by parties on both sides would ultimately decide the issue.

Incumbent Commissioner Graham King said, "Involuntary annexation is a shotgun marriage at best. It's just not in the best interests of the town to alienate those people."

He added that the town may need part of the causeway at a later date for a waste disposal site, and it would be beneficial to annex the causeway with their approval.

Bob Buck agreed with those who said forced annexation is wrong, but added that the town cannot wait until the causeway becomes its own town or is incorporated by some other town.

"This is not something the town can turn it's back on and wait until the people over there say they're ready," he said, explaining that the town must take the initiative before it is hurt.

Donald Carey argued that future annexation is important and necessary because causeway businesses

benefit from the town's image, but aren't paying taxes for those benefits.

Margaret Vasco said immediate annexation would be a major mistake because the \$8,000 in taxes which would be gained by the town would not come close to equaling the costs of annexation.

"We haven't seen in black and white what we will benefit by annexing the area right now," she said. Vasco added that future annexation would probably be important in terms of locating a possible wastewater treatment plant on the mainland.

Candidates Georgia Langley and Kermit Coble also oppose immediate annexation. They believe it should be put off until such time as the additional land and taxes will clearly benefit the town.

Rose Cole was also against annexation until in-depth studies are completed outlining the benefits, if any, the town stands to gain.

She added, "There are enough people on the island and causeway to work together on this. The people will dictate to the powers what should be done."

Gil Bass said the issue cannot be decided until the report from an annexation committee which will include island and causeway residents is completed.

Incumbent Mayor John Tandy, who is unopposed in the upcoming municipal election, said a careful study by the annexation committee will provide direction for any future action taken by the town. He has not yet appointed that committee.

"The committee should be able to determine right off the bat if this is the time for annexation," he said. "It behooves us all to take a good look at it, but I think we're going in the right direction with this committee."

## Sewage Treatment

Candidates also discussed the potential need for an island-wide or canal sewer system and possible avenues of funding it.

Most agreed that further study of the canal water quality was needed since a recent engineering study is inconclusive.

Bob Buck said that from what he drew from the study, the health of canal residents could be at stake. "The time is not too far off when we're going to have a serious health problem in the three canal subdivisions."

He added that a canal package sewer system, which could later be tied into an island-wide system, may be the

best answer because, he said, voters would not pass a referendum supporting an island-wide system.

Carey said that while further study of potential canal sewer systems should be continued, the town could successfully control growth by opposing an island-wide system.

"Down the road," he said, "we may need package sewer systems along the canals, but we can hold off the need for an island-wide system as long as we don't want unlimited growth."

Coble also said additional study concerning possible canal water pollution is important, but argued that he has never had a water or sewer problem in his 33 years of living along the canals.

"I don't think now is the time for a sewer system which would only serve the interests of a few people looking to develop and profit from that development," he said.

Candidates King, Vasco, Langley, Cole, Bass and Feldt agreed an island-wide sewer system may be needed in the long run, but added that the continued monitoring and study of canal water quality may discover the immediate need for a canal package sewer system.

In a related matter, canal lot resident Jim Fournier asked candidates about the blatant abuse of laws restricting canal houses to three bedrooms.

Buck agreed the law was being violated regularly but said there is little the town can do about it. He said developer plans calling for three-bedroom houses are granted septic tank permits from the health department, even though the developers fully intend to turn what was mapped out to be a den or dining room into another bedroom.

Tandy agreed, "Some people are taking advantage of the spirit of the law and it has to be enforced."

Langley said the enforcement of these laws should be the responsibility of the town's building inspector, but she said that since he is paid on commission and not salary, the violations are often overlooked.

Carey added that realtors who rent canal homes also need to enforce the maximum occupancy stated in the lease since the larger number of inhabitants often puts a strain on the sewage system.

## Planning Land Use

Most of the nine candidates agreed that the town's land use plan is a good guideline to follow. However, they

added that rezoning had to be handled on an individual basis and sometimes executed contrary to the plan.

Coble, however, said the land use plan should be followed as strictly as possible with very few zoning exceptions.

He said, "It's just like any other law or ordinance, if you don't police it, it's not worth the paper it's printed on."

King, who participated in the plan's updating in 1980 and 1985, said that in theory, the land use plan and rezoning should go hand in hand with one another. But, he added, rezoning cases need to be addressed as they come up and cannot always follow the plan.

Buck said, "It is a guide. It is a flexible living document in and of itself." He added that each rezoning case is different and depends entirely on the person making the request and the purpose of the request.

Carey added, "My philosophy is that you follow the spirit and intent of the land use plan as close as possible, but not specifically in all cases."

## No Highrises

All candidates rejected the idea that the maximum building height of 35 feet should be raised.

Referring to the current standard, King said, "If something is not broke, don't fix it."

Mrs. Cole added that she would "personally ring the necks" of anyone trying to raise the maximum height.

Tandy joked that he would "tar and feather" anyone who raised the issue again.

## Appointments Questioned

Part-time resident James Calvin asked candidates to express their positions on how town board appointments should be made.

Most said that elected town commissioners should actively pursue knowledgeable townspeople to serve on the board of adjustments and planning and zoning board.

Too often, said Vasco, board appointments come through friendships with commissioners, not necessarily through a careful examination of qualifications.

Cole recommended that all sectors of the population be represented on the town boards to bring new ideas and varying points of view out in the open.

Buck added that it is important that appointees be interested in serving and willing to do a good job for the town and that they be willing to invest the time required.

# Nine Candidates Seek Three Council Seats At Holden Beach

BY DOUG RUTTER

Nine candidates are running for three available council seats at Holden Beach while incumbent Mayor John Tandy seeks re-election unopposed.

Town council members and the mayor are elected to two-year terms without pay.

All Holden Beach candidates responded to the Beacon questionnaire.

## John H. Tandy

John H. Tandy, 56, of 121 Shrimp St., currently mayor of Holden Beach, is unopposed in his bid for re-election.

He has previously served as chairman of the Forsythe County Board of Commissioners, president of Ardmore Community Club and chairman of the Industry for the Blind and Goodwill Industries.

Tandy received B.A. and M.E. degrees from the University of North Carolina. He has a wife, Elizabeth, and five children.

Tandy said the most important issues currently facing Holden Beach are annexation and a possible sewer system.

He said, "If the majority of the people on the north side desire to be annexed, then I am all for it."

Concerning the possibility of a sewer system, Tandy added, "If the consultants can prove that the health of our citizens is in danger, then we need to get started on a sewer system."

He concluded, "This will be my last effort; however, I am looking forward to this effort."

## Guilford W. Bass

Guilford W. Bass, 41, of 140 Greensboro St., manages Holden Beach Fishing Pier and has previously served on the town's planning and zoning board.

Bass is president of the Holden Beach Merchants Association, vice president of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association and on the board of directors of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

He has earned a bachelor of science degree from Campbell College and a master's of education from N.C. State University. Bass has a wife, Janet, and two children, Wilson and Shannon.

Bass said the most important issues at Holden Beach are the continuation of a sewer system study, annexation, beach access, construction of a bike path and beach erosion.

He said he is seeking election because "I desire to be a part in the growth of our community, helping to maintain the family atmosphere."



Tandy



Bass



Buck



Carey



Coble



Feldt



King



Langley



Vasco

Bass added, "I have 15 years experience in administration, management and personnel. I will be a listener first, trying to gather the facts from all before making a decision."

## Bob Buck

Bob Buck, 62, of 231 Lois Ave., is a retired city manager and former town administrator of Holden Beach.

Buck was graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and the U.S. Navy Postgraduate School with a master's degree in management. He has a wife, Betty, and four married children.

He said important issues at Holden Beach include maintenance of the family beach image, beach access and annexation of the causeway area.

Buck said that he is seeking election "to use my experience and knowledge of Holden Beach to assist in providing the best possible town government."

He added, "I will work for the best possible municipal services and programs, administered with common sense, fairness and consistency."

## Donald Carey Jr.

Donald Carey Jr., 38, of 119 Seagull St., is a pharmacist at The Brunswick Hospital seeking his first elective office.

He has earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from St. Andrews College and a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from UNC-Charlotte's Pharmacy School. Carey is single and a U.S. Navy veteran.

Carey said the most important issues faced by Holden Beach commissioners are growth, enforcement of current ordinances and construction of a bike and jogging path along Ocean Boulevard.

He said he is seeking election to

help create a balance on the town's council. Carey said, "My background in the biological sciences and medicine will give the city council a member with expertise on environmental issues."

Carey added, "I am used to being part of a team and will be able to work well with the mayor and the rest of the city council. My goal is the least possible government while still preserving the basic character of our community."

## Kermit J. Coble

Kermit J. Coble, 62, of 111 Charlotte St., has served two previous terms on the town council and four years on the board of adjustments.

He is retired and has a wife, Stella, and two children, Barbara Kesler and Kermit Coble Jr.

Coble said the most important issues currently facing Holden Beach are control of the town board by realtors and developers and a possible sewer system.

He said he is seeking election because "I think I could give something to make the town a better place."

Coble concluded, "This will be an important board because of the sewer system. That is why the realtors and developers should not have control so they cannot decide against paying for the line in front of their property."

## Rose H. Cole

Rose H. Cole, 55, of 181 High Point St., is current chairman of the town's board of adjustments.

She was also named 1986 volunteer of the year by the N.C. Department of Corrections for her work at the county Adult Probation and Parole office.

Mrs. Cole is a 1953 graduate of UNC-Greensboro and has chaired two university committees since graduating. She has a husband, Leo,

and three children.

She said important issues at Holden Beach include the possible sewer system, beach access, walking and bike paths and the enforcement of current ordinances.

Mrs. Cole said her past work as a social worker and with the American Red Cross should help her as commissioner.

She also said, "I have enjoyed serving the town and want to continue to serve the town but in a new position—hopefully as town commissioner."

## Martin G. Feldt

Martin G. Feldt, 35, of 125 Lumberston St., operates M.G.F. Builders Inc. and is membership director of the Holden Beach Merchants Association.

Feldt is also a team leader on the Holden Beach Evacuation Committee and a member of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

He is a graduate of Palm Beach Junior College, and he and his wife, Wanda, have four children.

Feldt said the most important issues now at Holden Beach are annexation of the causeway and ocean-front erosion control.

He also said, "It is my desire to find any available funds to construct some sort of walkway or bike path on Ocean Boulevard."

Feldt added, "Holden Beach is my home and I would like it to remain as lovely as it is now. Growth will continue, but the growth needs to be controlled and orderly. We need to look ahead and plan growth so it is beneficial to all Holden Beach residents."

## Graham King

Graham King, 56, of 129 Lions Paw

Dr., is the only incumbent seeking re-election to the board of commissioners.

King graduated with a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of North Carolina. He has a wife, Macie, and three children.

He said he is seeking re-election "to continue projects started in the last four years."

King said important issues at Holden Beach include wastewater treatment, annexation, sidewalks on Ocean Boulevard and street improvements.

He explained that the issue of wastewater treatment should be dictated by the needs and desires of residents and that he is opposed to causeway annexation.

King said, "My past four years experience on the board has given me an insight into the needs and problems of our town and citizens."

## Georgia R. Langley

Georgia R. Langley, 49, of 122 Conch St., is a housewife who "loves Holden Beach and cares about its future."

Among other things, she co-founded the N.C. Municipal Clerks Association and is a former city clerk of Rocky Mount.

Mrs. Langley has also been a hospital volunteer for more than seven years and is presently volunteering her services on the "Swing Bed" unit at The Brunswick Hospital.

She has received degrees or diplomas from Carolina College of Commerce, Nash Community College, Wesleyan College, Syracuse University and the Medical University of South Carolina.

Mrs. Langley has a husband,

Wiley, and two married daughters.

She said important issues currently facing Holden Beach residents are growth, erosion control and control of taxes.

Mrs. Langley concluded, "My record in government proves that when I make any commitment, I give it my best. I have nothing to gain personally or financially. I only want to serve Holden Beach to improve and control the problems it now faces."

## Margaret Vasco

Margaret Vasco, 61, of 180 Ocean Boulevard East, is a retired food service manager and a former Girl Scout leader who has received that organization's highest honor, the Marjorie Dangerfield Award.

She has served as chairman of Holden Beach Community Watch, the town's community appearance committee and the P.T.A.

Mrs. Vasco graduated from Arlington Hall Junior College and continued her education at the University of Maryland, American University and Howard County Community College. She has a husband, Armand, and three children.

She said the most important issues currently facing the town are keeping the "family beach" atmosphere, controlling erosion and litter and planning for orderly growth.

Vasco said these issues can best be achieved by studying enforcement of current ordinances, controlling commercial zoning and obtaining state aid for sandbagging and dune renourishment.

She added, "I first came to Holden Beach in 1948, became a property owner in 1958 and a permanent resident in 1980. Three generations of my family have enjoyed this beach and its people."



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