

Board Steps Back For Longer Look At Privacy Fence Rules

BY SUSAN USHER

A proposed ordinance amendment that would allow a privacy fence in the MR-3 (multifamily residential) zone as a special use is going back to the Sunset Beach Planning and Zoning Board for more work.

Unable to agree thus far on standards for privacy fences, the planning board submitted a proposed ordinance to the town council Monday to keep from delaying consideration of a request for a fence from Sea Trail Corp.

The proposed ordinance specifies that subdivisions of 60 or more lots may qualify for a privacy fence of slatted wood on concrete pillars. The fences would be allowed only as buffers between subdivisions, differing residential uses (such as single- and multi-family) or between those uses and structures such as roads.

"We want to discourage spite fences between neighbors," said Sky Bramley, a member of the planning board.

However, the minimum-lot restriction, said Mayor Pro tem Ed Gore, makes the ordinance "totally worthless except for that one situation." He recommended a lower figure, such as 20 or 25.

Attorney Michael Isenberg cautioned the board that it needs to adopt a specific policy outlining standards for obtaining a special-use permit for a privacy fence that the planning board can follow in making recommendations to the council.

Otherwise, he said, "legally you're going to get in a hassle if every time you have to approve a different ordinance."

The board had previously approved, by way of another special ordinance, an "experiment" involving use of a privacy wall at Tabby Walk. Members had agreed to approve any privacy fences requests on a case-by-case basis through use

of a special use permit.

The planning board expects to take up the issue at a future joint workshop. Planning board member Nell Eaddy asked council members to begin thinking about possible challenges in developing a privacy fence standard.

Weedy Question

A proposal to have property owners resume responsibility for mowing of vacant lots, met with a 3-2 vote by council members Monday night, which means a second vote will be necessary at the board's June 21 meeting.

Voting against the measure were Ed Gore and Al Odom, and for it, Julia Thomas, Bud Scramton and Mary Katherine Griffin.

As written property owners would have to mow overgrown vacant lots at least once before July 1 (to reduce the fire hazard associated with fire-works) and then again after Oct. 1. Otherwise if the lots become overgrown the town will mow it or have it mowed and bill the property owner.

Gore believes the town should continue mowing all vacant lots as it had at one time.

Other Business

■Scheduled a public hearing on the 1991-92 budget and a regular business meeting Friday, June 21, at 2:30 p.m., in lieu of the July 1 meeting, and began filling up the agenda.

■Received, but took no action on, a petition from Sea Trail Corp. requesting voluntary annexation of Oyster Point Phase I;

■Discussed the proposed annexation of additional property in Seatrail Plantation, with the idea of adopting a resolution intent at the June 21 meeting.

■Approved a preliminary plat for Oyster Point Phase II, a 60-unit, single-family residential community behind the Oyster Bay Clubhouse and Oyster Bay Colony;

■Retained as the town's consulting engineer Phil Norris of Andrew & Kuske, at the same \$75 per quarter

rate as last year;

■Adopted an emergency plan for the town and assessment resolutions for paving of 29th and 30th street with property owners and the town splitting the cost;

■Learned from Mayor Barber that town property owners will qualify in October for a 5 percent reduction in premiums under the federal Flood Insurance Program and that after a February 1992 inspection the town may qualify for additional reductions effective October 1992.

■Approved Memorial Day as the sixth official holiday for town employees, starting next year;

■Decided not to take action on a suggestion for the town to purchase indemnity insurance.

■Learned from Town Administrator Linda Fluegel that Police Chief J.B. Buell has received a Distinguished Public Service Award, consisting of a plaque and medal, from the American Police Hall of Fame.

■Decided to ask a representative of Brunswick County Travel Pack, a cooperative tourism promotion venture of the county's chambers of commerce, to make a presentation June 21 on a proposal to place billboards promoting local beaches along the Raleigh beltway Aug. 15 through March 15 at a cost of \$7,000 per town.

■Learned that the planning board is working on plans to extend the boundaries of the extraterritorial area beyond the Seaside intersection.

■Heard from Bud Scramton on the work of the sign committee, which is proposing erection of large informational signs at the intersections of N.C. 179 and Sunset Boulevard and N.C. 904 and N.C. 179, and at the sharp curve on N.C. 179 between Sunset Beach and Calabash. Smaller signs would be placed at the town's discretion.

■Heard a request for trash containers at the public parking area on Sunset Boulevard and along the town sidewalks.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Hoagland Officer Of Year

Lisa Hoagland became the first Police Officer of the Year for the Sunset Beach Police Department Monday night. Chief J.B. Buell presented the newly-established annual award at the town council meeting, saying, "I feel like she has shown she can get the job done." Officer Hoagland won widespread recognition in January for her leadership role in the apprehension of three Columbus County men charged in the breaking and entering of more than 50 island homes at Sunset Beach. The case is still pending in Brunswick County Court.

KENNETH KNOX BRIDGES

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May Was Hottest Since 1953

Southeastern North Carolina residents endured the warmest month of May since 1953 and the second hottest since the National Weather Service started keeping records 120 years ago.

May also was much drier than normal, with the area receiving less than half the normal amount of rainfall, according to the monthly report

from the weather service in Wilmington.

The average temperature in May was 74.9 degrees, which was 4.2 degrees above normal. May 1953 was the hottest May on record, with an average reading of 75.9 degrees.

The average high temperature last month was 83.9 degrees, and the average low was 65.9 degrees, accord-

ing to the weather service report.

The highest daily temperature was 95 degrees May 31, and the lowest was 53 degrees May 3.

National Weather Service recorded measurable rainfall on 10 days during May. The monthly total was 1.75 inches, which was 2.47 inches below normal.

The greatest amount of rainfall in a 24-hour period was .87 inches May 15. Thunderstorms occurred on four days during the month.

Despite the lack of rainfall, there were only five clear days during the month. The weather service reported that there were 13 partly cloudy and 13 cloudy days in May.

Average wind speed for the month was 7.6 mph. A peak gust of 31 mph from the northeast was recorded during a thunderstorm May 18.

Designer T's Are Topic Of Session

Participants will learn to create designer T-shirts at a June 27 workshop at the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension office at Bolivia.

Registration of \$7 is due to the extension office by Friday, June 21, payable to Brunswick County Extension Homemakers.

Registered participants will need

to bring a prewashed T-shirt, foil-backed acrylic facet stones if desired, and a flat box large enough to hold the shirt flat to avoid smearing of paint during transport home.

Class size is limited, a news release indicated, and interested persons should contact the office immediately at 253-4425.

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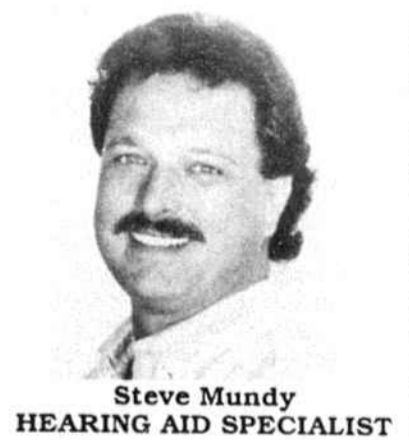
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