

# Holden Board Ready To Pass Bulkhead Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

Time is running out for people who plan to build a home along one of Holden Beach's finger canals without bulkheading the lot in advance.

To control erosion along the canals, town officials say they're ready to pass an ordinance that will require bulkheads on all canal lots before they can be developed.

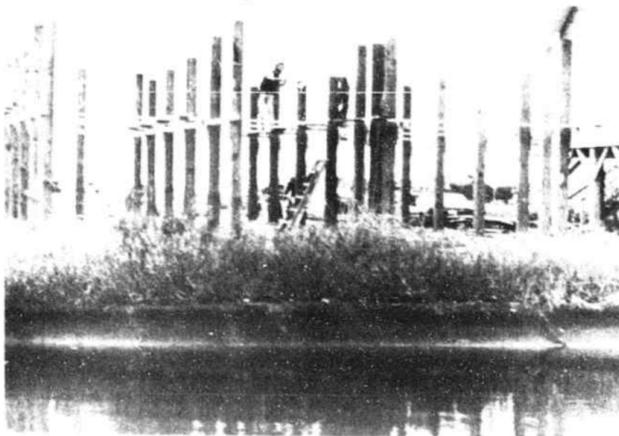
Holden Beach Commissioners conducted a public hearing and discussed the proposal last Wednesday. They are expected to pass the regulation at their meeting Monday night.

The town currently requires bulkheading prior to construction only if the lot is less than 100 feet deep. The new rule would require bulkheads on all lots, although lots less than 75 feet deep are considered unbuildable.

"I think this is a very important action that needs to be taken," Commissioner David Sandifer said at last week's meeting. Other town board members agreed.

But Commissioner Jim Fournier said the ordinance also should include some provision that would help property owners who are affected by neighbors who don't bulkhead their lots.

In some cases, people with bulkheaded lots are losing land because their neighbors haven't constructed bulkheads. The erosion of unbulkheaded lots often creeps across



HOLDEN BEACH OFFICIALS are ready to pass an ordinance that will require canal lots like this one to be bulkheaded before house construction begins.

property lines.

"Somehow we need to give people who are being physically and financially damaged some relief," Fournier said, adding that people shouldn't have to go to court to protect their property from erosion.

However, the N.C. Institute of Government had earlier advised the town not to get involved in such disputes between neighbors, according to Town Attorney Ken Campbell.

"What we need is less legal advice and more concern for our in-

habitants," Fournier said.

Three residents spoke during last week's public hearing on the proposed ordinance, all favoring the plan but urging the town board to come up with a bulkhead maintenance provision.

"This requires you to build but says nothing about maintenance," said Harold Steorts, who lives along one of the canals. "There are a number of these (bulkheads) falling down."

Ted Rivenbark and Andy Watson

agreed with Steorts about maintenance. They said the proposed ordinance is a good beginning.

"If we have half the fish in the barrel, let's not throw out everything else just because we don't have the rest of the fish," Watson said.

Commissioners agreed the town needs a policy on maintaining bulkheads. However, they plan to pass the ordinance as proposed and add the maintenance requirements later.

"This thing's been held up for I don't know how many years," Mayor Pro Tem Gil Bass said of the new regulation. Town officials are eager to get it passed.

As further protection against erosion, town board members said last week they want another rule that would prohibit landowners from placing fill dirt on canal lots without bulkheading the lot first.

## Other Business

In other business last week, commissioners:

■ Met in executive session for 30 minutes to discuss a personnel matter. In open session, the board instructed Town Manager Gary Parker to follow up on the matter.

■ Formally approved a policy for the town to relocate fire hydrants at no cost to property owners when the hydrants interfere with development plans. Parker said it costs the town about \$500 to move a hydrant. He said it has only been done twice in the last 18 months.

# Deputy Nabs Two Accused Of Stealing Ice Truck

Two men were arrested on auto larceny charges Sunday after a delivery truck was reported stolen from a business at Holden Beach Sunday, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

The owner of the Cubelet Ice Co. on Mullet Street, Holden Beach, told Deputy Charles Wilson that he received a call from someone asking if one of the company's trucks was supposed to be out. He then went to his business and found his 1980 Chevrolet truck missing.

Wilson reported finding two types of footprints around the spot where the truck was parked. A short time later he found the truck on Kirby Road with the same type footprints around it.

Two men were later seen walking on N.C. 130 about a mile from the vehicle. "These two subjects were wearing the same type shoes," Wilson reported.

Warrants were issued for the arrest of Michael Scott Hambrick, 25, of Shallotte and Corey Wayne McKeithan, 24, of Hamlet. They are charged with felonious larceny of a motor vehicle.

In other crime reports on file at the sheriff's department Monday:

■ A diamond cluster ring valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from a home on Loop Road, Leland, Saturday. The owner told Deputy Richard Long that she had let her son keep the ring in a safe under his bed. She recently discovered the ring missing. It was described as having seven diamonds set in white gold.

■ A refrigerator and electric range were stolen from a mobile home in Old Forest Estates, Leland, some time Sunday. Deputy Steve Mason said he met with a man who was watching the home for a friend and recently discovered the appliances missing. The thief or thieves apparently backed a vehicle to the rear laundry room door and loaded the stove and refrigerator into it, Mason reported. He estimated their value at about \$1,450.

■ A storage trailer at Carol Lynn Estates owned by N.C. Realty Construction Co. was broken into sometime in the past three weeks. Found missing was a table saw, a paint sprayer and 10 gallons of paint valued at a total of \$850. Deputy Charles Crocker's report said entry was gained by using a key.

■ Deputy Phil Bryant investigated a reported break-in and larceny that occurred at a mobile home on Beach Road near Seaside sometime in the past month. The thief or thieves apparently entered the home by taking a piece of glass out of a door and reaching inside to turn the knob. Found missing was a portable color television, a videocassette recorder and a telephone answering machine valued at a total of \$750.

■ A utility trailer loaded with scrap aluminum was reported stolen from the True Value Hardware store in Calabash Wednesday night. The store manager told Deputy Joey Adams that the trailer had been parked behind the store Wednesday at 5 p.m. It was found missing the next morning at 7:15. The trailer,

which is yellow with removable sides, was valued at about \$600.

■ Someone broke into a railroad maintenance building in Leland owned by CSX Transportation Co. Thursday night, Crocker reported. Found missing was a microwave oven, an automotive battery and a hacksaw valued at a total of \$340. The thief or thieves apparently came in the north side door and went out the east door, the report said.

■ A citizens band radio valued at about \$100 was reported stolen from a vehicle parked at a transmission shop on N.C. 211, Bolivia, Friday night. The shop owner told Deputy Malcolm Long that the thief or thieves broke out the driver side vent window of his Chevrolet van and removed the radio from the console. A television also was reported missing. Its value was not listed on the report.

■ A mobile home on Civictown Road was broken into last weekend, according to a report filed by Deputy Jerry Gray. The trailer was unoccupied at the time. Entry was gained by breaking a window. Nothing was reported stolen. An ashtray and a pack of cigarette rolling papers were found in the trailer.

■ Someone reportedly stole a telephone pole from a home on Graham Avenue, off U.S. 17 south last week. Bryant estimated its value at \$300 and noted that the theft may have been the result of a civil dispute over property ownership.

■ An Avon cosmetics salesperson in Long Beach reported the theft of her

briefcase, a calculator and a bottle of hair conditioner from the front seat of her car, parked outside a grocery store Friday evening. Deputy Cathy Hamilton estimated the value of stolen property at \$38.

■ Deputy William Hewett investigated the reported destruction of a light bulb at a home on Cedar Hill Road, Leland, Friday night. The owner said he returned home at about 9 p.m. and found that the bulb in his front yard security light had been broken. Hewett estimated the damage at \$1.

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