

Varnamtown To Seek Permit For Boat Ramp

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown officials are one step closer to rebuilding the community's boat ramp on Lockwood Folly River, voting Monday to apply for a state permit needed to do the work.

Despite previous opposition from a handful of residents who live near the waterfront, aldermen voted unanimously to submit a CAMA permit application. Board member Tonya Robbins was absent.

Earlier plans to build a boat ramp 44 feet wide have been scaled down by the town's planning board. It has recommended a ramp 16 feet wide on land owned by Nicky Varnam, Junior Thompson and Blondell Robinson.

In January, a dozen residents who live near the ramp turned out at a town meeting to oppose the planned improvements. They said fixing the ramp would draw more boaters to Varnamtown and make existing parking problems worse.

At the board's February meeting, Mayor Judy Galloway announced that she had received a petition containing 87 signatures of people supporting town plans to rebuild the facility.

Alderman Ada McDonald also reported at that time that the town had come up with a solution to the problem of parked vehicles that block driveways near the ramp.

In addition to leasing property for the ramp, she said Varnam had agreed to provide land along Varnamtown Road for boat ramp parking. Town officials want to fix the ramp because people damage their boats when they use it.

Trash Pickup Coming?

Varnamtown's finance committee has started working on the 1993-94 budget and plans to meet again Tuesday, April 27.

At Monday's meeting, aldermen kicked around the idea of including money for trash pickup in next year's budget. Several board members said residents have asked for pickup.

Town officials agreed that if a company is hired to pick up garbage, the residents and business owners would have to foot most the bill.

"I can't see having trash pickup and the users not pay," McDonald said.

Mayor Pro Tem Ennis Swain, chairman of the finance committee, said estimated prices for trash pickup two years ago were about \$8 per house per month. He said the cost is probably higher now.

Mayor Galloway said the town would have to poll residents to see how many would sign up for trash pickup and be willing to pay for it.

"I don't know how much more we can get in the budget this year,"



VARNAMTOWN OFFICIALS will apply for a state permit to rebuild the community's crumbling boat ramp on Lockwood Folly River. STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

she said. "We've got land payments and the new heating system."

Town officials said they don't want bulk containers in town because people from outside the community would use them.

No Rim Hangers, Please

To serve the community's youth, Varnamtown officials plan to put up two basketball goals in the town hall parking lot.

There's a catch. If the goals are destroyed by people hanging on the rim they'll only be replaced one time.

Resident Terrence Galloway had suggested the town install basketball goals at last month's meeting, but town officials wanted to first check with their insurance company.

Town Clerk Luellen Norris reported Monday that the town couldn't be held liable if someone was injured playing ball unless it could be proven the town was negligent.

Other Business

In other business Monday, aldermen:

- Voted to purchase a large mailbox

to be placed in front of town hall. Alderman Will Mumford also is shopping for a sign for the town hall grounds.

■ Voted to join the N.C. League of Municipalities, a statewide organization that serves cities and towns. The cost will be about \$350 per year.

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ATTENTION HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS
PETITION TO THE HOLDEN BEACH TOWN BOARD
For the following reasons, we the undersigned, ask the Town Board of Holden Beach to resist all efforts to cause a sewer system to be installed on Holden Beach:
*Numerous studies commissioned by the Town have failed completely to prove a need for a sewer system. Such pollution as we may have is caused primarily by storm water run-off.
*Sewer systems traditionally result in over-development, which in turn adds to storm water run-off, as pointed out in the 1984 environmental impact study done by the EPA.
*Above is exemplified by the New Hanover sewer system which has added up to four or five times the original dollar amount and has not prevented the waters around Wilmington from continuing to be closed to shellfishing.
*A sewer system on Holden Beach will benefit only the special interest groups and we will lose our family beach atmosphere.
Signed: Concerned property owners of Holden Beach
DATE NAME ADDRESS
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