

Disgruntled Landowner Wants Varnamtown Boundaries Changed

BY DOUG RUTTER

When Varnamtown residents incorporated their quiet, waterfront community five years ago, one of the first things they did was establish boundaries for the town.

A landowner who wasn't happy with the boundaries at the time told town officials Monday night he still isn't happy. Arthur Thompson asked that his property be excluded from the town.

"I asked for it not to be put in there to start with," Thompson said of his 15-acre tract on Varnamtown Road. "I think my land would be better off out of the town."

Aldermen took no action on Thompson's request, and indicated they don't plan to change the boundaries in the future. "That should have been fought in 1988," Mayor Judy Galloway said.

Thompson said he did fight it in 1988 when he asked Tracie Varnum and Roger Robinson to leave his land out of the town. Varnum was the first mayor and Robinson was a member of the initial town board.

Varnum said Thompson did ask that his property be left out of town. "You were not the only one. There were several people in the center of town that didn't want in," he said.

Mayor Galloway said if the town board grants Thompson's request more will follow. "If you do one you're going to get another one and another one and another one."

Thompson is opposed to a mobile home park ordinance the town approved last month on a 3-2 vote. He said he hasn't decided if he will put a mobile home park on his property.

The rules require that all mobile homes be new and says they can't be placed on lots smaller than 20,000 square feet unless the park is served by public water and sewer systems.

With those regulations in place, Thompson said it would be difficult to make money. "What am I going to do after I retire? I can't live on Social Security."

Galloway said Thompson should have voiced his objections to the ordinance before it was passed. The town

Robbins Resigns From The Board

Varnamtown Alderman Tonya Robbins announced her resignation Monday night, saying she doesn't have time to run a restaurant and help conduct the town's business as well.

Robbins, elected to a four-year term on the town board in 1991, said managing Maxton's Restaurant doesn't leave her enough time for town business. She has missed several meetings recently because she was working.

"I feel like I'm more of a hindrance than an asset," Robbins said at Monday's regular monthly town board meeting. "I feel like y'all need someone who can help you more."

Robbins' resignation will take effect June 30. Aldermen said they plan to discuss the appointment of a new board member at their next regular meeting on June 7.

board held a public hearing on the rules, even though it wasn't required to by law.

Alderman Will Mumford pleaded with the town board not to relax the mobile home park regulations. He said putting mobile homes closer together would detract from the town's beauty and value.

"Ordinances are supposed to protect the town and the give the people a pleasant place to live," Mumford said. "Nobody wants to live next to a mobile home park, but if you do you want it to be decent."

Mayor Pro Tem Ennis Swain said he thinks the county regulations will eventually be stricter than the town's.

A committee of the Brunswick County Health Board is drafting mobile home park regulations that would apply in unincorporated areas. A second public hearing on the rules is expected soon.

"You think the town's hard on you now? You haven't seen nothing 'til the county gets a hold of you," Swain

said. "If you're ahead with the county today you will not be in a few days. That's my belief."

Mayor Galloway said she didn't want there to be "hard feelings" between Thompson and the town board. "Nobody's going to like everything the town does," she said. "The board was selected by the people of this town to do what's best for the town now and in the future."

Boat Ramp In Works

Varnamtown officials have decided to seek the assistance of State Rep. David Redwine after learning that the town's request for a state grant to rebuild the community's boat ramp was rejected.

Mumford plans to send a letter to the local legislator with copies of the town plans for a new ramp on Lockwood Folly River. "Let's see what Redwine delivers," he said.

Despite potential funding problems, aldermen indicated Monday they are in favor of replacing the existing ramp with a 16-foot-wide concrete ramp. The town has applied for a state permit needed to do the work.

Property owners Nicky Varnam, Junior Thompson and Blondell Robinson have agreed to lease to the town the land on which the ramp is located. Varnam also has agreed to help provide parking for vehicles.

Alderman Ada McDonald said Monday night the town board needs to make a commitment to go ahead with the project.

"I don't think there's any doubt that the board wants to do this," Mumford said.

Varnamtown's next regular meeting will be Monday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. instead of June 21. The town board will hold a public hearing on the proposed 1993-94 budget on June 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Other Business

In other business Monday, aldermen:
 ■ Endorsed sending a letter to Gov. Jim Hunt seeking funds for a regional sewer and stormwater management system for the South Brunswick Islands area.

■ Voted to send a letter to State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. seeking his support for a bill that would release intangibles, beer and wine and utility franchise taxes to towns and cities. Mumford said the bill has passed the N.C. House.

■ Heard from Mayor Galloway that the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources will give the town a \$4,480 grant this fall to be used in developing the community's first land use plan.

■ Agreed to pay Scott Varnum \$50 for each mowing of the lawn at town hall. The grass is usually mowed twice a month during the summer.

■ Voted to purchase a cork bulletin board and put it up underneath the old carport at town hall. Town officials plan to use the board to keep residents informed about upcoming meetings and hearings.

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EMS Rescue Show In Shallotte Friday

The week of May 23-29 has been proclaimed Emergency Medical Services Week in Brunswick County, and local volunteer rescue squads have scheduled a special show to mark the occasion this Friday, May 21, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Wal-Mart store parking lot in Shallotte.

More than 20 pieces of rescue equipment will be on display, including the county's two water ambu-

lances, crash trucks, water rescue boats, the county's emergency management command post, first responder vehicles and several ambulances.

An extrication demonstration is planned in which a trapped accident "victim" will be rescued from a damaged vehicle using the "Jaws of Life" tools, air bags and other rescue equipment.

Another local rescue will demonstrate how a victim might be rescued

from a tall building by rappelling off the side of the department store.

Visitors will be given the opportunity to see the inner workings of rescue vehicles with dozens of uniformed rescue personnel on hand to answer questions.

The event is free and open to the public.

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