

Holden Beach POA Committee Will Study Growth

BY DOUG RUTTER

If some Holden Beach homeowners had their way, a barrier would be built at the top of the high-rise bridge to prevent anyone else from building on their beautiful island.

They realize that's not going to happen, but they still would like to see future growth of the town limited so Holden Beach doesn't join the long list of overdeveloped beach resorts.

With that in mind, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) has formed a committee charged with studying orderly growth of the community.

Bob Lineberger, Carl Pritchard, Dwight Carroll, Melba Von Sprecken, Marietta Wright, Charles Hauser and Harley Young will serve on the committee created Saturday morning at the group's Thanksgiving weekend meeting.

Lineberger, a property owner at Holden Beach since the 1940s and a former president of the HBPOA, said the town needs to control future growth and limit the number of people who come on the island.

HBPOA President Crawford Hart suggested landowners attend town meetings when the land use plan is discussed. The plan, which is updated every five years, is used as a guide for future development.

Dune Rebuilding

Dune renourishment work could begin in January at Holden Beach, pending issuance of a state permit and approval of the town's plan to spend more than \$50,000 in federal money.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich, who also serves as executive secretary of the HBPOA, reported on the dune rebuilding project Saturday morning.

He said the town is still waiting for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to approve the town's proposal for spending the federal money Holden Beach received following the March 13 storm.

Town officials also plan to spend up to \$44,000 of town funds to repair some of the damaged dunes.

Holden Beach has applied for a sedimentation and

erosion control permit it will need to remove approximately 12,000 cubic yards of sand from a spoil area between Brunswick Avenue and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

"It will probably be early January before we have everything lined up to work," Ulrich said.

He said it's unlikely the town will be able to carry out a plan to establish a fixed rate for oceanfront homeowners interested in paying for dune repairs on their own property.

He said contractors have told him they can't provide across-the-board estimates because each lot is different. "A contractor's going to have to look at each place on its own in order to give a reliable figure," he said.

Ulrich also reported Saturday that underground utilities work in the Holden Beach Harbor area should be finished by the end of the year.

The sidewalk along Ocean Boulevard will be extended east of the bridge next spring, when work near the west end of the island also is planned.

Island resident Larry Vogt will soon replace Ulrich as HBPOA executive secretary. Since taking over the position earlier this year, Ulrich has been hired as town manager.

Beach Access

HBPOA directors discussed but took no action Saturday regarding the lack of public beach accessways in the Harbor Acres subdivision, which is served by one accessway.

Director Bob Buck said the town lost several accessways in that area years ago when it failed to formally accept and open accessways that were dedicated by developers.

"There's no place up there for an access unless they condemn some land," President Hart said.

"I can empathize with them but I don't think there's anything we can do for them," he added. "The town has done everything it can do short of taking legal action."

Town officials recently sent letters to oceanfront property owners asking them to provide land for beach accessways, but there were no responses.

New Vet Cemetery To Serve Eastern N.C.

The Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville will be dedicated in a ceremony Dec. 3.

The facility, which has been under construction for a year, will provide free burial sites and perpetual cemetery care for North Carolina veter-

ans, particularly those in the eastern counties of the state.

The Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery is at 110 Montford Point Road in Jacksonville, across the street from the Beirut Memorial.

Another recently opened state vet-

erans cemetery is in Black Mountain, serving primarily veterans in the western counties. A third is scheduled to be built next year near Fayetteville.

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Other Business

In other business Saturday, directors:

■ Voted to send out membership forms in January instead of December in an effort to increase the membership of 822. There are more than 1,000 island property owners who are not members of the HBPOA.

Hart encouraged members to talk with their neigh-

bors about joining. "If we don't get new members at least we may get an idea of why they're not joining," he said.

■ Notified members that the "Friends of the Library" organization is seeking donations that will be used to continue library services in Shallotte while the West Brunswick Branch Library is being renovated.

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