

Shallotte Thoroughfare Plan Hits Snag At Public Hearing

BY DOUG RUTTER

A long-range plan designed to improve traffic flow and ease congestion in and around Shallotte was not exactly greeted with open arms Tuesday night.

Many of the people who packed Shallotte Town Hall for a public hearing on the community's proposed thoroughfare plan found at least one thing they didn't like about it.

The most common objections were the proposed addition of two entrances into Brierwood Estates and an extension of Bluff Drive that would turn it into an alternate route for motorists heading east and west through town.

Brierwood residents said they don't want more entrances, fearing it would lead to crime and vandalism. Bluff Drive residents opposed turning their residential street into a major thoroughfare.

Rick Blackwood with the N.C. Department of Transportation's statewide planning branch presented the thoroughfare plan. He worked on the proposal this summer with town aldermen and planning board

members.

The thoroughfare plan is a "road map of the future" for the Shallotte area that attempts to identify the type of street system that will be needed over the next 25 years.

Blackwood said two of the biggest traffic problems in Shallotte are the number of vehicles on Main Street and the number of vehicles heading to and from the local beaches that pass through town.

To relieve congestion on Main Street, Blackwood has proposed extending Bluff Drive across Shallotte River and running it parallel to Main. The new road would cross Holden Beach Road and continue past Red Bug Road.

Blackwood said 17,000 vehicles use Main Street every day, compared to just 10,000 on the U.S. 17 bypass.

"If we don't have something like this I think U.S. 17 Business will need to be seven lanes wide at some point in the future," Blackwood said of the Bluff Drive extension. "We've got to do something even with that bypass in place."

To further cut down on congestion on Main Street, Blackwood has proposed building a connector between Holden Beach Road and Smith Avenue along the edge of the Wal-Mart parking lot.

That would allow cars to get from the U.S. 17 bypass to Holden Beach Road without getting tied up on Main Street.

Other proposals in the plan include:

- Building a new road that would extend from N.C. 179 at Village Point Road to Smith Avenue. It would cross Main Street near Shallotte Township Park and cross N.C. 130 near Bridger Road.
- Extend Mulberry Road to N.C. 130 West north of the bypass, and extend New Britton Road to Mulberry Road.
- Extend Georgetown Road from Ocean Isle Beach Road to Hale Swamp Road.
- Connect Four Mile Road and McMilly Road, north and west of Shallotte, with a road that would cross Old Shallotte Road.

Aldermen took no action on the plan Tuesday night. They plan to conduct a joint meeting with the planning board on Oct. 18.

Vendors Ordinance

Aldermen have apparently abandoned the idea of limiting the number of downtown street vendors with an ordinance and will try instead to control them through zoning regulations.

Based on a recent conversation with Town Attorney Mark Lewis, Durham said the town board cannot pass a proposed ordinance that would prohibit certain people from peddling while allowing others to sell.

Town officials had been considering a rule that would have prohibited most types of street vending but still permit local fishermen to sell their seafood and local farmers to sell their produce. "Our attorney tells us we can't do one group of people one way and another group of people another way," Durham said Tuesday.

The town planning board has been asked to review the zoning regulations at its Oct. 11 meeting and present a recommendation to the board of aldermen at its Nov. 1 meeting.

Most town board members say they want to stop peddlers who come to Shallotte from

other cities and states and set up shop along the roadside to sell clothes, furniture and other items.

Aldermen say they're not interested in preventing residents from holding yard sales, but are interested in protecting local merchants who pay taxes and create jobs.

Building Inspections

Town officials plan to ask the Brunswick County Inspections Department for help handling building inspections in Shallotte and its extrajurisdictional area (ETJ).

Aldermen say the town needs to lighten the work load on Albert Hughes, who does building inspections in addition to operating the wastewater treatment plant and supervising the public works department.

Town officials say they can't afford to hire a full-time inspector and have not been able to find another local town that is interested in sharing an inspector.

"We all pay county taxes and this may be a way of getting some assistance back," Durham said. "We need to pursue this and see what we can work out."

MORE LETTERS

Criticism Of Animal Rescue Open House Prompts Responses

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the Sept. 22 letter "Don't Cage Pets." Of all the people, I never thought Teddi Neal would write such a letter. She is supposed to be a great animal lover, but it seems from her letter to the editor she had rather carry them to the pound than to be placed up for adoption.

Jeanine Friday has a building 38 by 24 that materials cost \$5,000 to build. There are separate rooms for male, female, mothers with babies, cats. They are contained there until someone adopts. She says she can't turn people down if they bring them to her unwanted, especially if they say "pound." Dogs have large pens and shelter.

According to Teddi Neal, she is against all "humane societies," which have to keep their animals in cages or pens in order to adopt them. You cannot let animals be loose or out in the woods if you expect to give them to people seeking a pet.

As for members of the Brunswick Animal League donating to this cause, it was strictly their business and their money. The truth is, it was no expense to the Brunswick

Animal League, but some of the donors were members—I, for one, was, and it was my money and my business.

I think Jeanine Friday is one in a million. How many people would be willing to spend their own money to take in unwanted animals, feed and care for them as long as they lived if no one adopted them?

Ninety cats and kittens and 25 dogs were adopted as a result of the open house at Jeanine Friday's. People came five and six at a time and gave donations. All of us that volunteered were overjoyed.

It is such a pity that Miss Friday, due to a bad back injury, has to give up or find someone to replace her, which I hope will happen. If I were younger I would either have a haven like hers or try to take her place.

Jeanine still has right many cats for adoption. They are free—just give them a good home, is all she asks. Her address is 3376 St. Charles Place, Southport. I am sure she would be glad to have anyone who loves animals to come and adopt one. If anyone would like to donate food, litter or help in any way, I'm sure she would appreciate it.

Write Us

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must have an original signature and must include your address and telephone number. (This information is for verification purposes only; we will not publish your street/mailling address or phone number.) Letters must be typed or written legibly. Address letters to: **The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte NC 28459**. Anonymous letters will not be published.

I think Jeanine is to be praised, not condemned.

Alma Tolson
Shallotte

Purpose Lost?

To the editor:

It seems that the reason I started the Animal Welfare League in Brunswick County has been lost. The purpose was never to save unwanted animals or to find homes for them. The purpose was to prevent them from being born.

I sat in my front yard for days making donation boxes, then placing them in businesses around the county. That way I built up an account from which to help people pay for

spaying and neutering, while suggesting that they pay for that service.

It has been some time since I retired, so I'm no longer up on what the League is now doing. Maybe its purpose has gotten lost since I retired, and maybe the paper describing its purpose has become lost.

I hope this letter will remind the League members of its original purpose of raising money to help pay for neutering and spaying—not for saving the lives of unwanted pets. Those used to be turned over to the pound to be killed, which is why I started the League in the first place.

Teddi Neal
Bolivia

'Wonderful Job'

To the editor:

I am writing about the letter in the Sept. 22 issue from Teddi Neal, ex-Animal League founder.

I was appalled to think that an Animal League founder would feel as she does about someone trying to save the lives of our dogs and cats. The person trying to save them had become ill and needs our love, help and support for herself and the animals she loves and cares for. She tries to get homes for these animals that no one wants.

From my understanding she has done a wonderful job. She does not need someone from a former time to condemn her instead of giving her support. Her way may not be the way that Ms Neal would do for the animals, but these animals are here and they need us, the people, to help them.

They may need to be put in a catter, but they are not touched or harmed in any way. They do have love from Ms Friday, even if no real home when she first gets them. She helps to find homes where they are loved and become family members.

We need more Ms Fridays in this world.

Also, I have had to use the Animal League to help with my spaying and neutering of my own animals. I intend to fulfill my duty and repay the Animal League with my support and to help Ms Friday with help also.

Mary F. Boyd
Supply

Coastline Squad Answers 61 Calls

Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad answered 61 emergency calls and traveled 2,689 miles during August, according to spokesman Sharon Martin.

Squad volunteers worked standby for water rescue and fire six times. Six transports were made.

The squad offers free blood pressure and blood sugar testing on the first Sunday of every month. The clinics take place from 2-4 p.m. at the squad building on N.C. 130 near the Holden Beach causeway.

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