

Public hearing next step in solar farm effort

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A public hearing conducted by the Edenton Town Council this week is the latest step in a process that could lead to approval of a proposed solar farm on Butternut Lane.

The hearing, which was scheduled to be held Tuesday night, concerns a request from developer Heath McLaughlin of Blue Green Energy LLC to acquire a conditional use permit for a solar farm to be located at 115 Butternut Lane.

The council was also scheduled to consider adopting a text amendment to the town's Unified Development Ordinance during the meeting that would spell out specific requirements for solar farms placed inside the town limits or, in the case of the Butternut Lane project, inside the town's extra-territorial jurisdiction.

The town's Planning Board has already expressed its approval of the proposed project that would allow for the operation of a 5 megawatt (alternating current) photovoltaic solar facility.

"The UDO's Use Table does not currently have a category for this use (solar farms) however recent NC Supreme Court case law requires local governments to identify a use in the Use Table that is similar and has similar impacts," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton wrote in a Feb. 5 staff report prepared for the town council.

"Therefore I have determined similar use is 'utility related appurtenance, substation.' This use is allowed by conditional use permit in the RA (Rural Areas) zone," she said.

Knighton noted that when granting a conditional use permit, the council could attach reasonable

requirements to the permit to address concerns raised during previous council meetings.

Recommended conditions for the council to consider prior to voting on the CUP request, Knighton said, would include the following 8 items:

Solar structures shall not exceed 15 feet in height

Solar array structures, including security fencing, must meet the minimum setback requirements for the RA District, a 500 foot setback from an occupied residence and a 500 foot setback from the center line of a public right-of-way

In addition to the requirements set forth in UDO Article XIX, Screening, Landscaping and Trees Requirements, the solar farm shall be screened with an opaque screen along the North Broad Street exterior side of the security fence, the Butternut Lane exterior side of the security fence,

A minimum 20-foot wide existing tree lined screen along the rear of the tract shall remain for the life of the project. The newly planted buffer/screen shall be from the ground to the height of 6 feet and consist of plantings expected to be opaque in all seasons of the year and reach height maturity within 5 years and shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide

Applicant will seek advice and input from Chowan County Cooperative Extension Horticultural Agent on plant selections/species that in the agent's opinion are appropriate and most likely to survive and thrive on the site

The Solar Farm shall meet all requirements of the International Building Code with North Carolina amendments

A Decommissioning Plan signed by the party responsible for decommissioning and the landowner address-

ing specifics about the plan including a performance bond that is 1.10 times the estimated decommissioning cost minus the salvageable value, or \$25,000, whichever is greater; other conditions will also apply including an acknowledgment by the applicant that the town must be provided with a certified cost estimate for decommissioning and that the performance bond, which must renew annually, will include a minimum 60-day notice to the Town of Edenton prior to cancellation

In the matter of water infiltration and soil conservation the staff report notes that panels "must be positioned to allow water to run off their surfaces. Soil with adequate vegetative cover must be maintained under and around the panels. The area around the panels must be adequate to ensure proper vegetative growth under and between

the panels"

The applicant must obtain all applicable NC Department of Environmental Quality permits.

To grant the CUP request from the developer, the town council must find in his favor in four separate areas:

- that the proposed use or development will not materially endanger the public health, safety or welfare;

- that the proposed use or development will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property;

- that the proposed use or development will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located, and;

- that the proposed use or development will be in general conformity with the town's land use plan, thoroughfare plan or other plan officially adopted by the council.

Perquimans woman dies after attacked by own dog

HERTFORD — A Perquimans County woman died last week after she was mauled by her own dog while attempting to clean out its crate, the county sheriff said.

Susan Story, 36, of the 1200 block of Snug Harbor Road, died as she was being transported for medical care following the attack on Feb. 10, Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said.

Story suffered severe lacerations to both her face and neck in the attack which

happened shortly before 1 p.m., Tilley said. The sheriff described the dog that attacked Story as a bulldog-boxer mix. The victim's family told a Virginia TV station the dog was a female pit bull.

According to Tilley, Story had gone into a room where the dog was kept to clean out its crate. Not long afterward, Story's sister, who was in another room, heard her screaming.

When the sister entered the room, the dog was at-

tacking Story, Tilley said. The sister managed to pull the dog off Story, but she too was bitten.

Tilley said it took deputies five to seven minutes to gain control of the dog so that paramedics could get to the two women. He estimated the animal weighed more than 100 pounds.

Story was taken by ambulance to a helicopter landing zone but died from her injuries just as the medical crew from a Norfolk

hospital was landing, Tilley said.

Story's dog was held overnight at the Tri-County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center and euthanized Thursday morning, he said. "It was late in the afternoon by that time, and there was no need to put it down yesterday because the vet wouldn't have gotten around to it until this morning anyway," Tilley said.

Tilley said the animal had recently had a rabies shot, but Story's sister was still checked out by medical personnel. Story's sister

was transported to a local hospital where she was treated and released.

Tilley said it is unknown if the dog had ever exhibited aggressive behavior toward its owner before Wednesday.

Story's stepfather, Randy Brown, told WVEC-TV that Story adopted the dog about a week ago in Virginia after seeing it advertised in a newspaper. Brown says the people who had the dog told her it was well behaved.

Story leaves behind 15-year-old and 17-year-old

daughters, the television station reported.

The last time a person was killed by a dog in Perquimans County was in 2012. A 10-month-old boy was killed on West Railroad Street in Hertford by a mixed-breed dog.

Tilley had no special advice to give to dog owners in the wake of the tragedy.

"My grandfather had Dobermans when I was growing up and there was one that was a pet for years, and one day it turned on him," Tilley said. "I really don't have any advice" to give.



STORY

CRIMEWATCH

Edenton Police

ARRESTS

- Feb. 7 — Jerzy Demetrius Stanley, 28, of Elm Grove Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of probation violations.

- Feb. 6 — Damien Williams, 44, of Paxton Lane, was charged with one misdemeanor count of making threatening phone calls.

- Feb. 5 — Avery Lamark Holley, 44, of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, was arrested on one felony count of possession with intent to sell or distribute cocaine and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

sion of drug paraphernalia.

- Feb. 2 — Mary Jo Haves, 47, of Cabarus Street, was arrested on two misdemeanor counts of begging.

- Feb. 2 — Lonnie Deandra Wilson, 30, of East Peterson Street, was issued a criminal summons on one misdemeanor count of failing to pay fine for playing loud music in violation of a town ordinance.

- Feb. 2 — Tyrrell Lamont Armstead, 41, of Vance Lane, was charged with one misdemeanor count of assault on a female.

- Feb. 1 — Gregory Jamal Walton, 19, of Boswell

Street, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of affray (fighting).

- Feb. 1 — Nikale Eregon Walton, 17, of Waterlily Loop Road, was arrested on one felony count of possession of a stolen firearm, one felony count of possession of a controlled substance on jail premises and one misdemeanor count of going armed to the terror of people.

- Jan. 31 — Tquris Jacqua Cofield, 23, of Blade Circle, was arrested on one felony count of possession of a firearm as a felon.

INCIDENTS

- Feb. 9 — Breaking and entering and larceny at Shun Xing on North Broad Street.

- Feb. 2 — Vandalism on North Broad Street.

- Feb. 2 — Larceny from motor vehicle on Virginia Road.

- Feb. 2 — Injury to real property on West Peterson Street.

terson Street.

- Jan. 28 — Aggravated assault and injury to real property on Johnston Street.

Chowan Sheriff ARRESTS

- FEB. 9 — Don Wayne Ashley, 44, of Greenhall Road, was arrested on one felony count of illegal entry of a school while registered as a child sex offender.

- Feb. 9 — Shanna Ruth Armstead, 19, of Shannonhouse Road, was issued a criminal summons on one misdemeanor count of simple assault.

- Feb. 8 — Windi Alease Conner Parker, 43, of Yeopim Trail, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of assaulting a handicapped person.

- Feb. 2 — Assault on a handicapped person on Pasquene Trail.

- Feb. 1 — Fraud with a debit card in Edenton.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be advised that the Town of Edenton is now accepting bids to mow the grass at the Northeastern Regional Airport. Contract will be for cutting approximately 225 acres using airport equipment or contractor can bid using their equipment. For details contact Bud Powell at 482-4415. All bids must be submitted by 3/1/16.

TOWN OF EDENTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TWO PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FROM DEVELOPERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE FORMER CONGER/NE COMMISSION BUILDING

The Edenton Town Council would like to hear input from the citizens on the two proposals that have been submitted from developers for the purchase of the former Conger/NE Commission Building located at 119 West Water Street, Edenton, NC. Proposal from Williamson County Investments Corp (Austin, TX) that would create two restaurants and retail space in exchange for the Town donating the building to the corporation and proposal from John Glover (Raleigh, NC) to create a brewery and pub in exchange for the Town selling building for the appraised value of \$282,000. The public hearing will be held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Swain Auditorium, 200 East Church Street, Edenton, NC. Information on the two proposals submitted by the developers can be found at www.townofedenton.com

Albemarle Boats partners with Oyster Harbors Marine

From staff reports

Albemarle Boats, a leader in the production of offshore express sportfishing boats, is pleased to name Oyster Harbors Marine as the exclusive sales and servicing dealer for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

"We could not be more excited to have Oyster Harbors representing us as the premier Albemarle dealer in New England," said Burch Perry, Albemarle general manager. "Since 1987 they have been a fixture on Cape Cod and their full-service yacht yard, pristine marina, and first-class sales force make them the perfect fit to sell our products and take care of our customers."

Serving the marine industry for nearly 30 years, Oyster Harbors has long prided themselves on carrying only the best boat lines and creating lasting relationships through unrivaled customer service and satisfaction. Multiple locations on the Cape and a satellite location in Essex, CT, allow customers to easily view new products and meet with a member of the sales team.

"The Nantucket Sound presents one of the most challenging sea conditions, and Oyster Harbors has a reputation for offering top-quality boats that will do the

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Burch Perry

General manager, Albemarle Boats

job. Albemarle has a long tradition and a well-established reputation for sea kindness and customer responsiveness," said Oyster Harbors Vice President Peter Maryott. "Their willingness to listen and make adjustments to fit our specific needs is one of the many reasons why I believe Albemarle is the perfect fit for us."

Located in Edenton, Edenton Boatworks LLC is a recently formed company of Murphy Alternative Investments. It is the parent company of Albemarle Boats, The Carolina Classic, a highly-regarded builder of offshore sportfishing boats with more than 3,600 hulls hand-crafted since 1978. The company has dealer locations throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia. For further information visit Albemarle Boats at www.albemarleboats.com.

After forty wonderful years, Dr. Kenneth P. Manning, Sr. and staff will close their Edenton office effective July 31, 2016.

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