

Annexation Meeting Slated

After avoiding the sensitive subject during two consecutive special meetings, Holden Beach Commissioners will meet again next Monday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. to talk about annexation and nothing else.

During a special meeting called Monday morning to discuss annexation, commissioners argued among themselves for about 30 minutes, then decided that another special meeting was needed to talk about annexation of mainland properties.

Monday night, the town's annexation committee, composed of island and mainland residents, met to review the latest map of the area proposed for annexation.

Earlier this month, the town board recessed its regular meeting with the idea that it would take up annexation one week later. After reconvening, however, the board discussed and acted on other matters and eventually ran out of time.

In addition to a discussion of annexation, commissioners will also hold their regular monthly meeting next Monday. It will begin at 7 p.m.

Holden Commissioners Stand Behind Petition

BY DOUG RUTTER

Despite an earlier plea from the state to withdraw a petition, Holden Beach Commissioners this week reaffirmed their opposition to septic tank laws hampering development on the island.

The refusal to withdraw the petition seeking special changes in septic tank laws set the stage for a meeting this week in Raleigh during which the town expected to present its petition and push for a public hearing early next year.

Town Commissioner Georgia Langley, who during a special meeting Monday recommended to her fellow board members that the petition not be withdrawn, planned to lead a local contingent which was to appear before the N.C. Health Services Commission Wednesday. Wastewater treatment engineer Jay Houston and Dr. William Rabon of the Brunswick County Health Board were expected to join her in requesting a public hearing on the petition.

The petition, which was approved by the town board on Nov. 7, seeks a change in the state septic tank law which requires at least one foot of "naturally-occurring" soil above the water table in order for the site to be approved for a permit. It also seeks amendment to the rule that prohibits placement of a septic tank or its components under an impervious surface such as a driveway.

Those two regulations, particularly the one dealing with original soil, have left numerous canal lots at Holden Beach unbuildable.

Following town adoption of the petition, the state Division of Health Services requested that the town withdraw the document and simply support a revised set of regulations currently being drafted. Those new regulations were supposed to be completed and available for public comment on Dec. 1.

During this week's two-hour town meeting, however, Mrs. Langley said health services division staff

members were "dragging their feet" and that she didn't know when the new regulations would be completed.

She said the town would be better off submitting its own petition and fighting its own battle instead of waiting for the state to complete its work.

Houston, consultant for the town's wastewater treatment needs study, also strongly recommended Monday that the town board stand behind the petition. "I think you ought to go full steam ahead," he said, adding later that "it's very easy to defend the rule changes we're proposing."

Responding to a question from the board, Houston said that during his ongoing study, he has found no difference in the soils on lots approved for septic tank permits and those turned down for permits.

Earlier in the discussion, Commissioner William Williamson had stated, "It's not a question of engineering; it's a question of politics."

Other Business

In other business, commissioners:

- Appointed board members Bob Buck and Williamson, Planning and Zoning Board Secretary Sid Swarts, and residents George Bradshaw and Linda Hasque to a water charges committee. The committee will consider requests for lowering excessively high water bills which result from water line breaks or similar circumstances and will make recommendations to the full board of commissioners.
- Authorized Interim Town Administrator Les Roark to apply for a state grant for the beautification of Jordan Boulevard and the regional beach access facility under the bridge.
- Agreed to pay an overrun of \$2,376 to APAC Carolina, Inc., for the paving of Swordfish and Scotch Bonnet drives. The town had accepted a bid of \$45,417 for the paving; the higher than anticipated cost resulted from a town error in measuring the square yardage of the project.

Aquarium Offers Catalog Just In Time For Holidays

The North Carolina Aquarium have joined the ranks of mail-order catalog businesses.

Its new 24-page, 6 3/4- by 7 1/4-inch gift catalog debuts just in time for Christmas shopping via the U.S. mail. If you've had second thoughts about the book, poster or novelty item you almost bought on a summer trip to a state aquarium, this is your chance to buy.

Glossy, full-color photographs tempt shoppers, and the prices make buying easy. Priced from \$2 to \$49.95 most items are within anyone's range, and profits go to support exhibits and educational programs at the three North Carolina Aquariums. The nearest is at Fort Fisher in Kure Beach; others are located at Pine Knoll Shores and Roanoke Island.

What does \$2 buy? Something Fishy, a puzzle of sardines in a can. With an Aquarium member discount it's only \$1.80.

For \$3 (\$2.70 members), youngsters can buy Mom a collection of time-honored recipes, "Coastal Carolina Cookbook." Other cookbooks range in price up to \$12.95.

At the far end of the spectrum, the catalog offers, for \$49.95 (\$44.96 for members) "a great gift for those who love the sea," a 9-inch diameter brass tide clock. A brass case surrounds a nautical chart which provides the background for the clock.

Take your pick of charts for the Wilmington-Cape Fear, Morehead City-Cape Lookout or Roanoke Island-Oregon Inlet areas.

In between are items for every member of the family, ranging from handpainted coconut shell jewelry and collectible ceramic fish to Aquarium caps, keychains, mugs, Frisbees and T-shirts.

For kids, the offerings include "The Whale Game," in which players are confronted with a variety of dilemmas as they play the role of a migrating humpback whale, "Ocean Pick-Up-Pairs," "Ocean Lotto" and "Ocean Quiz."

But most delightful of all the items in the catalog are the books, both the adult-audience field guides and coffee table volumes, and the children's works. These include Eric Carle's "A House for Hermit Crab," Suzanne Tate's "Crabby and Nabby—A Tale of Two Blue Crabs," and Margaret and H.A. Rey's "Curious George Goes to the Aquarium."

Not every item offered in the catalog is available at all three Aquarium locations. To order a gift or a catalog, contact the North Carolina Aquarium Catalog Sales Dept., Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954. Credit card orders only are accepted on the toll-free line, 1-800-548-7406.

Screening Set On Dec. 10, 11

A cholesterol screening will be held at Briarcliffe Mall in Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Dec. 10 and 11.

Sponsored by Grand Strand General Hospital, screening hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The screen takes three minutes and requires a simple finger stick. The charge is \$5.

As this is only a screening, results may vary from a more complete blood workup, advised Sydney Smith-Rikard, director of marketing and public relations.

The hospital's registered dietician will be available on and off to answer questions and offer advice on modifying one's diet. Literature will also be distributed.

Reception Is Slated

The public is invited to attend a reception for members of the N.C. Downtown Development Association's Technical Assistance Task Force at the Ship's Chandler Restaurant in Southport, on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

The reception will be hosted by Southport Mayor Norman Holden, city aldermen and the Southport Economic Development Commission.

Also, the task force will present its findings and recommendations to the public on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m., at Southport City Hall.

County Slates Rabies Clinic

Brunswick County Animal Control will hold a rabies clinic next Saturday, Dec. 10, at four local animal hospitals.

The clinic will be held in the following locations: Brunswick Animal Hospital in Supply; Calabash Animal Hospital next to Traders Village in Calabash; Dineen Veterinary Clinic in the Clairmont Professional Plaza

Building in Leland; and Cape Fear Animal Hospital at the intersection of N.C. 133 and N.C. 87 in Southport.

Charges at these clinics will be \$5 for rabies shots for cats and dogs, with all other shots costing the normal rate.

For more information, call the animal control office at 754-8204.

Thank You

Brunswick Village wishes to express their appreciation for the quick response and assistance in the fire we had Nov. 23. We are pleased to announce there was no one seriously injured, and damage was kept at a minimum. Our special thanks and acknowledgements to Shallotte Fire Dept., Shallotte Rescue Squad, Shallotte Police Dept., employees of Brunswick Village, and a special thanks to Mr. Brady Little. Most of all we thank God for protecting and overshadowing us.

Sincerely,
The Management of Brunswick Village

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Lizard Man Coming!

Last Saturday night was wild, again! The Island House Restaurant continues its talent contest (for kids only).

It hit me that there's more young talent out there than one would expect. All of the contestants were singers, and were they ever cute (I love kids, anyway)!

Next Saturday evening we're gonna do it again. The Lizard Man will make an appearance and will bring a toy for each boy and girl who enters the contest.

This Saturday, Dec. 3 is the date. Come out and do your talent thing!

On Dec. 10 we'll give away \$100 to the big winner.

Kids, come see the Lizard Man Saturday night!

Sincerely,
Pearl
Island House Restaurant
Ocean Isle Beach



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