

Holden Property Owners Discuss Beach Erosion

BY DOUG RUTTER

Beach erosion and ways of protecting oceanfront property were on the minds of members of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) when they gathered Saturday for their final meeting of the year.

High tides and rough seas have caused extensive erosion along some stretches of the island since the group's last meeting in September.

Bob Buck, the association's executive secretary and a town commissioner, said a lack of funds probably will prevent the town from restoring dunes that were rebuilt following Hurricane Hugo last fall.

"All the steps and stuff are strewn up and down the beach," HBPOA President Bob Lineberger said at Saturday morning's board of directors meeting.

Approximately 50 people turned out for the regular meeting, where they heard the latest information on an underground utilities project, expansion of the town hall and street paving.

Buck said the association now has 835 members, which is up more than 18 percent from one year ago. The bank balance as of Saturday was \$11,477.

The town of Holden Beach spent more than \$300,000 to rebuild the dune, plant beach grass and put up sand fencing following Hugo.

Despite the erosion since then,

"Mother Nature, we hope, will be more benevolent in the next two or three years."

—HBPOA Executive Secretary Bob Buck

HBPOA officials said Saturday that the money was well-spent. "We would not have a beach if it was not done," said Director Harold Gihardt.

Due to the expense, however, Buck said town commissioners have no plans to reinforce the dunes or replace sand fencing and beach grass that has been lost.

"Mother Nature, we hope, will be more benevolent in the next two or three years," Buck said.

In a related matter Saturday, property owners talked about the concrete bulkhead at Surfside Pavilion, which they said causes erosion at neighboring properties.

Linda Silber, a former member of the HBPOA Board of Directors, said the bulkhead changes the direction of waves and has caused erosion at her property and several other nearby lots.

"Our property is being de-

stroyed because the water and the shoreline can't follow its proper course," she said. "We're all being affected by one piece of property."

Carroll said bulkheads are the worst enemy of the beach. "Any time you have a bulkhead, it's going to cut out behind it," he said.

HBPOA Director Susan Gible suggested Mrs. Silber start a petition if she wants to get rid of the bulkhead, which is owned by Alan Holden. The town helped pay for the bulkhead when it was built because it protects the southern ends of Holden Street and Ferry Road as well as the pavilion.

In other business Saturday, the board of directors decided to have their information booklet revised. They hope it can be ready for the association's Easter meeting.

Buck said he would update the old ordinances, add new ones and include information on swimming and fishing in the canals and changes in the town's hurricane plan that have been made since last year.

The HBPOA also will ask the Holden Beach Beautification Committee to come up with a list of recommendations for beautifying and landscaping property on the island.

The association has agreed to pay to have the list printed. It would be mailed to HBPOA members and also be available at Holden Beach Town Hall.

Motorcyclist Dies In Wreck

A Michigan man died last week when his motorcycle ran a stop sign and struck another vehicle near Leland.

Jon Edward Ladd, 20, of Laingsburg was killed around 6:20 p.m. Wednesday after his 1988 Honda struck the side of a truck driven by Billie Jo Kilgore, 48, of Winnabow, reported the State Highway Patrol.

The accident occurred at the intersection of Lanvale Road (S.R. 1426) and Village Road (S.R. 1472) about 2 miles south of Leland.

According to Trooper B.C. Jones' report, Ladd was traveling at a high rate of speed when his motorcycle failed to stop at the intersection and struck Ms. Kilgore's 1986 Nissan in the right side. The impact caused the truck to turn over on its side.

Kilgore received minor injuries and was transported to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington. Damage was estimated at \$4,000 to the truck and \$5,000 to the motorcycle.

So far this year, 14 people have died on Brunswick County highways.

"That's how many we had all of last year," said Ruby Oakley, highway patrol spokesperson. "So we need to hold it right there with another month to go."

In another accident last Friday, four people were injured following an accident at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Governor's Road in Winnabow, about six miles north of Bolivia.

Kevin Taylor Smith, 23, of Euclid, Ohio, was charged with an unsafe movement violation after he pulled onto U.S. 17 and into the path of another car around 8:20 p.m., State Trooper C.E. Ward reported.

The driver of the other car, Trina Renee Hartsell, 18, of Bolivia, applied brakes but was unable to avoid hitting the Smith car, the Highway Patrol report stated. Her 1983 Mazda hit the left side of Smith's 1986 Mazda pickup truck.

Ms. Hartsell was issued a citation for not wearing a seatbelt, Trooper Ward reported. She and a passenger in her car, Rebecca Diane Milliken, 18, of Supply, were taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply and were later transferred to New Hanover Memorial Hospital.

Smith and a passenger in his truck, David Champion, 23, of Southport, were both wearing seatbelts and received minor injuries, the report stated. They were also taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital for treatment.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

'Tis The Season!

Roland Varnam (above) and his co-workers with the Town of Shallotte were out early last Friday hanging Christmas decorations in the town's business district in advance of the town Christmas parade and a visit from Santa, Saturday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m.

Planning Board Wants To Move Ahead On Subdivision Ordinance

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Planning Board members agreed last week that it's time to try again for approval of a new county subdivision ordinance.

"I don't know any reason why we shouldn't resubmit it," said Michael Schaub. "It might be turned down again, but I think we should try."

Schaub said he also thinks it's time for the county to address a proposed zoning ordinance. Planning Director John Harvey said he had been directed "informally" in February to stop work on it. Commissioners had pledged earlier to address zoning this past spring. The last activity relating to the zoning ordinance was an informal workshop held more than a year ago.

The subdivision ordinance was completed two years ago, but was sent back to the planning board for revisions. Harvey said the ordinance was "put on hold" in May. "(Health Board Chairman) Rick Parker wanted the subdivision ordinance held off until the lot size question was resolved," he said.

The planning and health departments were to appoint a joint committee to look at the issue of minimum lot sizes and other mutual concerns. The committee has never met. Health Board appointments were delayed when that board failed to have a quorum at several consecutive meetings.

At its Nov. 5 meeting the health board appointed William Rabon, George Clemmons, Maliston Stanley and Ricky Parker to the committee. Last Wednesday the planning board appointed Alfonza Roach and Schaub as its representatives. Meanwhile, in a Nov. 8 letter, Parker lists two "areas of immediate concern" relative to the request from the planning board.

The third draft of the proposed subdivision ordinance addresses the first concern, the need for more time to review preliminary plat proposals. It provides for plat proposals to be submitted at least three weeks

in advance of the board meeting, with the health department and county soil scientist to have two weeks for their review and comment.

Planning board members said last Wednesday they are ready to submit this section of the ordinance to county commissioners for immediate approval if the entire ordinance cannot be submitted. The health board had been asked to comment on the language of the section but did not do so.

"I think we need to quit dilly-dallying around and get some questions answered and get some decisions made," said Schaub in reference to the ordinance. "This is impeding our efforts to serve the people. We need to put this to rest."

The health department's second concern is additional space requirements for on-site sewage disposal systems as of Jan. 1, 1990.

At a joint meeting of the two boards in May at which the issue of minimum lot size was discussed, Parker said county commissioners need to be made aware that septic tank permits cannot be issued for lots created after Jan. 1, 1990, that lack adequate size and dimensions.

The new subdivision ordinance would be in force in unincorporated areas of the county. However, the county's 17 municipalities regulate development within their jurisdiction and in their extrajurisdictional zones, an area that may extend up to one mile beyond town limits.

Ordinance Amended

Harvey reported that county commissioners on Nov. 19 amended the 1987 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to allow mobile homes in Sea Breeze subdivision off N.C. 130 near Holden Beach to be placed on 36-inch foundations rather than 14-foot pilings.

Developer Alfonza Roach had sought a variance from the planning board after learning the planning department had apparently erred in not identifying six lots as lying in the flood zone. The board was con-

cerned that granting the variance would jeopardize the county's participation in the federal flood insurance program and increase its liability in the event of flood damage. The amendment resolves the problem.

The planning director said his office will pay the cost of surveys for the required FEMA elevation certificates for the affected lots.

Other Business

In other business, the board:

- Approved a preliminary plat proposal for Section Two, Twin Oak Estates, on Mintz Cemetery Road, with 21 lots averaging 15,000 square feet in size. Approval is subject to identification of areas for a common nitrification field, and lot numbering and street naming. Grady Hardwick is president of Hardwick, Inc., the applicant.
- Approved a second addition to Wildwood Village, off S.R. 1360 near Shallotte, with 61 lots to average 12,000 square feet in size, but only with the provision that the plat be stamped that the lots may not be suitable for human habitation. Agency reviews indicated that 20 or more of the lots are not suitable for installation of septic tank systems

and recommended installation of a central sewage system. Hardwick is also the president of the company developing this project, developed by WW Village, Inc.

- Tabled consideration of one proposed plat since an agent was not present, and informally reviewed a voluntarily submitted site plan for a motel/dining/shopping complex proposed to be built on U.S. 17 south of Shallotte near Grissetown by Kowolf Partnership.
- Took note of a 2 p.m. briefing today at Navassa Town Hall for public officials regarding the proposed Wilmington bypass or northern outer loop, which would connect I-40 and U.S. 17. A 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. public meeting and workshop will follow at Leland Middle School.
- Learned in a letter from DOT District Engineer Jim Cook that the planning board needs to have DOT

approval of subdivision street and roadway plans in hand before final approval and recording of a subdivision plat.

Shelter To Offer Warm-Up At Parade

Hope Harbor Home will sponsor a concession booth during and after the Shallotte Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 1.

Volunteers will sell coffee and doughnuts in the parking lot of Camp United Methodist Church in downtown Shallotte.

Also for sale will be Christmas items and holiday wrapping paper.

All proceeds go to support Hope Harbor Home, a not-for-profit organization that provides emergency shelter and other services to victims of domestic violence.



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