

Holden POA Wants Town To Restudy Light Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) voted by a narrow margin Saturday to support a re-evaluation of town regulations on the use of outside lights.

Members also elected four directors at their annual Labor Day weekend meeting and approved plans for a "Meet The Candidates" Night to be held prior to the November municipal election.

Discussion of the lighting ordinance dominated the meeting, with members voting 38-30 in favor of a town board restudy of the rules that were approved in November 1989 and took effect a year later.

Among other things, the controversial ordinance prohibits yard lights that are more than 10 feet off the ground.

Proponents of the rule say it is necessary to keep yard and security lights from shining in neighbors' windows. Opponents say the rules prevent them from adequately lighting and protecting their property.

Since the rule took effect last fall, the town has forced several homeowners to lower lights affixed to utility poles.

Holden Beach filed a lawsuit in July seeking a court order to have a security light on Brunswick Avenue lowered to 10 feet.

Georgia Langley, who was serving as a town commissioner when the ordinance was passed, said Saturday that the people are split on the outside lighting issue.

"Half of the island wants darkness, the other half doesn't," she said.

Earl Willis, a Raleigh resident who owns a home on Sunshine Lane, made the motion calling for a restudy of the ordinance. He also wants HBPOA directors to notify members when the light ordinance is to be discussed at town meetings.

Willis, who had an attempted break-in at his house recently, said most homeowners on the island aren't around to protect their property. "Darkness breeds mischief and unlawful acts," he said.

Greensboro Street resident Alice Tew raised the issue of outside lighting at Saturday morning's meeting at town hall.

Mrs. Tew said Mayor John Tandy had promised seven months ago that the town would look into street lighting. "If he was saying that just to pacify us, it hasn't," she said.

Seated in the audience, Commissioner Gloria Barrett said town officials have discussed putting street lights at each intersection, but nothing has been decided yet.

Holden Beach Town Manager Gary Parker said the lighting issue will be discussed at the Sept. 9 town board meeting. A resident opposed to outside lights has asked to address commissioners.

Four Elected

New directors elected to three-year

"Half of the island wants darkness, the other half doesn't."

—Georgia Langley former commissioner

terms Saturday were Crawford Hart of Holden Beach, Harold Bender of

Charlotte, Betty Zucker of Raleigh and Joe Reed of Lynchburg, Va.

They were the only nominees for the board of directors. They replace Mrs. Susan Gibble, Kenner Amos, Ralph Eanes and Bob Buck, who will stay on as executive secretary of the association.

Buck reported Saturday that the HBPOA has 850 members—the most in its history—and \$10,620 in the bank. There are about 1,770 individual property owners at Holden Beach. At the close of the regular meet-

ing, directors re-elected Bob Lineberger to a second one-year term as president. Ted Rivenbark was named vice president and Buck was re-elected secretary.

Meet The Candidates

The HBPOA will once again sponsor a "Meet The Candidates" Night two weeks before the town election this fall.

The mayor's post and all five commissioners' seats will be up for election Nov. 5. The public question-

and-answer forum will be held Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Former directors Amos and Mrs. Gibble and association members George McDaniel and Mrs. Langley will develop questions for the candidates and ask questions submitted by HBPOA members who cannot attend the forum.

In other business Saturday, the town manager brought members up to date on various projects including underground utilities, water safety, street paving, and canal dredging.

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