

CRC To Review Holden Beach Land Use Plan Next Thursday

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS
 The Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) will discuss the Holden Beach Land Use Plan when it meets at Atlantic Beach next Thursday, Jan. 23.
 The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Sheraton and is expected to conclude that same day.
 CRC spokesman Jeanette Johnson said the agenda will include review of land use plan updates from several coastal communities, including Holden Beach. On its second review by the commission, the Holden Beach plan is up for final certification.
 However, Haskell Rhett, planning and access coordinator for the Department of Coastal Management (DCM) in Wilmington, is submitting the plan update without a staff recommendation.
 In a letter to the Planning and Special Issues Committee of the CRC, he wrote that the staff "withholds recommendation at this time."
 Rhett suggested that the CRC will want to deliberate "on matters relating to plan content..." at the meeting.
 The new land use plan has been passed twice by the town council of Holden Beach in two forms: once in

August 1991 and again in December 1991 after some amendments.
 It was first submitted to the CRC in June 1990 for review and was found to have many duplications and not to reflect existing town policy. It was returned to the town by the CRC in October 1990 and reworked by the Holden Beach town council and planning and zoning board. It went to public hearing in August.
 According to Rhett's letter, more changes were deemed necessary by the town council after the August hearing, and were made accordingly.
 After a Dec. 2 public hearing, Holden Beach resubmitted the plan in December for final certification. That should be considered at the January meeting, Ms. Johnson said.
 Rhett had suggested changes in the plan prior to its submission to the state office for staff review. He expressed concern in December about the town's designation of areas as "rural," saying that was perhaps not appropriate for a fragile barrier island. Rhett recommended creation of a new category, conservation special use, that would allow an individual property owner interested in development to petition the town to change the designa-

tion to a less restrictive category.
 Instead the town left one group of islands as "rural," allowing the possibility of development at a rate of 2 to 2 1/2 units per acre. It created a new category, rural special use, to designate existing and proposed dredge spoil islands.
 Also on the CRC agenda will be discussions of a declaratory ruling on variances for construction permits and their rulings, which will influence the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their methods of requesting variances.
 Presently, said Ms. Johnson, the Corps does not apply for permits since it is a federal agency, and the CRC therefore questions the Corps' right or need to request variances to non-existing permits.
 The board will discuss clarifications concerning duplication of certain erosion control rules and the determining of techniques for sizing oceanfront structures.
 In a related issue, Ms. Johnson said that the CRC may adopt the previously proposed amendment for oceanfront setback rulings, which was addressed in a public hearing at the December meeting.
 Procedures for designating areas of environmental

concern (AEC) will be challenged when the AEC committee makes its presentation on alternatives to the present rulings.
 Currently, anyone on the CRC can nominate an area for AEC designation, and have it approved in a public hearing and by various committees' approval. Ms. Johnson said the commission desires a "closer involvement with other agencies who would have the technical expertise to screen" the list of nominations.
 Tom Jarrett of the Corps of Engineers will make a presentation on methods and avenues of government funding for environmental projects.
 No word has been heard, Ms. Johnson reported, on the status of a grant application that if approved would enable the state to purchase a 198-acre tract of maritime forest on Bald Head Island.
 Ms. Johnson added that this would be a "busy meeting," but that the CRC should be able to address every topic on its agenda. Normally, meetings of the commission are stretched over two days, but this one should wrap up by 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Nothing is scheduled for Friday, she said.
 CRC meetings are open to the public.

Advisory Board Strikes Back

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 Planning Board, \$35; Parks and Recreation, \$20; Utility Operations, \$35; and Keep America Beautiful, \$20. However, there are other boards whose members receive no per diem.
 "There were no financial matters discussed," said Robinson. "There were no questions asked of me."
 The advisory board, Carter said, was active in following new laws through the state legislature that affect the register of deeds office. Board members were also outspoken last year on the county's new subdivision ordinance, on sections that regulate the recording of subdivision plats, he said.
 Carter alleged that two members of the Parks and Recreation board have received more than \$400 in compensation since July 1, but that it hasn't been an issue with commissioners. He claimed Parks and Recreation board members collect per diems on both meetings and conferences they attend.
 Morgan, who represents surveyors on the advisory board, said he would be willing to serve as a volunteer.
 "It's been a very good conduit for people and other surveyors just to

express our views to Robert and also to explain and carry back to them what they need to know," he said. "This year was one of the busiest years for legislation that has affected us."
 Pay for board members was not an issue at budget time, said Ms. Shires. "Compensation is not an issue, as far as I'm concerned," she said. "It is beneficial, as far as representing my clients. We had a voice in the excise tax and the transfer tax laws."
 When Ms. Thorpe was appointed to the board, she agreed to serve without knowing that she would be paid for meetings.
 "I've never been here for the compensation. In fact, I was shocked," she said. "I had no idea. To dissolve this advisory board is a mistake. I'm really sorry to see it happen."
 The county budgeted for advisory board meetings for the 1991-92 fiscal year, which ends June 30.
 "Once money has been appropriated to this office, it's at my discretion," said Robinson.
 But with compensation no longer an issue among board members, he said, they would not be offered pay under a new charter.
 "I don't want it to be an issue of compensation," he said.

Bomb Threat Said To Be Hoax

State Department of Transportation employees evacuated the Shallotte maintenance office for about an hour Tuesday morning following a bomb threat.
 "There wasn't anything to it," Shallotte Police Lt. Chuck Yager said. "I believe it was a hoax."
 Lee Curry, supervisor of the Shallotte DOT office, said he had no idea who could have made the call.
 Yager said someone telephoned a secretary who works in a Wilmington DOT office at her home Tuesday around 6:30 a.m. and told her that two bombs had been placed in the Shallotte office.
 The caller reportedly told the secretary that the bombs would explode at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesday.
 Yager said the Shallotte office was evacuated between 8:30 and 9 a.m. and again between 10:45 and 11:15 Tuesday as a precaution.
 Police searched the building for bombs but didn't find anything, Yager said.
 Said Curry, "Everything turned out fine."

Homeowners Claim Stolen Property In Varnam Case

Some of the stolen property confiscated from a Holden Beach area theft ring that detectives uncovered last week has been returned to the owners.
 Olaf Dale Varnam, 40, of Route 2, Supply, was charged last week with six counts of second-degree burglary and six counts of larceny after breaking and entering. Detectives have accused the convicted drug trafficker of leading an area theft ring that involved thousands of dollars in stolen goods.
 Officers seized approximately \$50,000 in stolen items from Varnam's home on Stone Chimney Road (S.R. 1115) last Monday, Jan. 6.
 Varnam was released from the Brunswick County Jail Jan. 7 under \$96,000 bond after making a first appearance in Brunswick County District Court. Judge Napoleon "Poli" Barefoot Jr. reduced bond from \$130,000.
 Three Holden Beach area property owners whose homes were among those broken into have claimed their furniture and appliances, reported Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Gene Allen Caison.
 He said the stolen items had been set up for use in Varnam's home.
 Detective Kevin Holden said the items confiscated had been stolen from homes in the Holden Beach area between March and November 1991.
 Peggy Jeffrey of Barbourville, W. Va., reclaimed \$1,090 in goods taken from her home—including a dishwasher, wall clock, pink afghan, video recorder, two lamps, ceramic ducks and pigs, stove-top burner covers with a matching kettle and a silk plant arrangement, Caison reported.
 Also, Mary Culp Jarvis, of Route 1, Supply, reclaimed a clock radio that had been taken in a break-in, said Caison. Another resident, Bill Corzine of Concord, got his couch, loveseat and chair that had been reported stolen in another break-in.
 Varnam received a 15-year suspended sentence in Brunswick County Superior Court in September 1988 and was placed on five years' supervised probation after he pleaded guilty to 18 counts of trafficking in cocaine and 18 counts of conspiracy to traffic in cocaine.
 Indictments accused him of distributing more than eight pounds of cocaine in Brunswick County between February 1985 and May 1986. His cooperation with authorities and personal danger from those he helped implicate in the undercover operation were factors in his not receiving an active jail term, a Superior Court judge noted.
 Holden said Monday that no other charges have been filed stemming from the three-month investigation. He expects several suspects will be charged.

Winter's On Its Way Here

It's going to feel more like winter across the South Brunswick Islands during the next week, meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday.
 He said temperatures and precipitation should be below average as a cooler flow of air from the Arctic region heads toward the North Carolina coast. Temperatures will be in the mid 30s at night and in the low 50s during the day, he predicted. Canady expects less than a half-inch of rainfall.
 He estimated the Arctic flow shouldn't bring bitterly cold temperatures to the region, but "it will be noticeably cooler for at least the next five days," Canady said this would be a change from the milder conditions experienced so far this season in the coastal area.
 For the period Jan. 7 through 13, the maximum daytime high temperature was 66 degrees, recorded on Jan. 9. The minimum evening low temperature was 29 degrees, recorded on both Jan. 8 and Jan. 12.
 The average daytime high was 60 degrees and the average evening low was 37 degrees, for a daily average temperature of 48 degrees. Canady said that reading is two degrees above average for this time of year.
 He measured only .52 of an inch of rainfall at his Shallotte Point home.

Health Board Eyes Complaints

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 owner is caught in that situation. Permits given to property owners state that the permits will expire if not used by a certain date.
 "Three-year permits are probably the ones you've been hearing about," said Rhodes, "where the permit has run out, and it's not a valid permit any more. That has happened. How often that has happened, I don't know."
 Davis replied, "I'm more concerned about what we're going to do about it, not how many times it has happened."
 Usually, it's the non-resident property owner who has purchased land in Brunswick County who falls victim, said Chairman Bill Rabon.
 "They think that 10 years from now they are going to retire, and this is where they are going to move," said Rabon. "Then the bubble bursts. The person who tends to be caught is the non-resident or expatriate. A lot of people who wait until they are in their 60s to build are affected, and that's a sad time."
 Added Davis, "All of a sudden their dream home is gone. They don't even have a place to put it

any more; their land won't perk."
 Rhodes said he received a request from a local developer who wants to be on the agenda at the board's February meeting to "discuss a communications problem" within Environmental Health Services. The person agreed to meet with the board's Environmental Health Committee first to see if the problem could be worked out there, said Rhodes.
 Serving on that committee are Rabon, Davis and Brad Williams. They will meet sometime this month, said Rabon.
 Rhodes also told the board that the state began giving control of the larger below-surface septic systems to local health departments Jan. 2. Permits and inspections for such systems must now be given by local health specialists.
 In Brunswick County, about 56 such larger systems will be affected by the transition, said Rhodes. The state will still maintain control of above-the-ground-sewage disposal systems.
 "We feel if one agency has underground disposal and one surface disposal," said Rhodes, "to the public, it would be unclear as to who has responsibility."

Health Department Asked To Ban Smoking

BY TERRY POPE
 A physician who works in the children's clinic at the Brunswick County Health Department says workers there are setting a "very poor example" by not following a no smoking policy.
 A plan to prohibit smoking inside the health building almost went to a vote at the Board of Health meeting Monday. Instead, the board agreed to send the matter to a committee for further study.
 Of the two new members who joined the board Monday, one was assigned to the committee by Chairman Bill Rabon.
 Marcus Williams, a Shallotte physician, will join board members Rabon, Brad Williams and six department employees—three smokers and three non-smokers—to work on a possible no smoking plan.
 Williams and Joey Galloway, a Supply pharmacist, were sworn in as new members Monday. The board agreed that employees who smoke should first be offered a program to help them quit and given a designated area to smoke.
 A letter from Dr. Gordon Coleman, who works in the department's pediatric clinic, raised the board's awareness about possible health problems stemming from cigarette smoke.

Brad Williams' motion to ban smoking was seconded by Pat Nutter and almost went to a vote. He agreed to withdraw the motion following discussion.
 Coleman's letter states that the area where children are examined at the health department is not a smoke-free environment.
 "I found that disturbing for several reasons," he wrote in a letter to Dr. James Forstner, president of the Brunswick County Medical Society. A copy was forwarded to Health Director Michael Rhodes.
 "First, we are seeing children there who have respiratory illnesses in examining rooms located adjacent to an employee lounge where smoking is taking place," Coleman wrote.
 He added, "But above and beyond that, it is a very poor example for a county health department not to have a no smoking policy."
 Coleman serves as president of the New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society. His Children's Clinic on S. 16th Street in Wilmington covers the pediatric clinic at the Brunswick Health Department.
 Rhodes, a smoker, said he decided to bring the matter to the board's attention. Of the department's 60

employees, approximately 20 percent smoke, he said.
 Health employees are told not to smoke in front of clients or patients, but are allowed to smoke in the privacy of their offices, said Rhodes.
 "I would like this portion of the building smoke-free," said Brad Williams.
 Rabon said he did not want to prohibit employees from smoking.
 "None of them, when they were hired, were told they could not smoke," said Rabon. "I'm dead set against the no smoking policy."
 Marcus Williams said he agreed with a ban on smoking, but that employees would first need time to prepare and a program to help them quit. Five percent of smokers are nicotine addictive and can never quit, he said.
 "This is a big decision to be making in one night," he added.
 Members voted unanimously to form the committee, which will report back to the board at a later date.
 In other business Monday, the board:
 ■Received a report from Health Specialist Gary McDonald on the department's new booklet, "Guidelines for New and Remodeled Food Service Establishments", which summarizes rules and requirements for persons who want to open a restaurant.
 ■Heard from McDonald that the department conducted its first soil study under the new Brunswick County Subdivision Ordinance. A 12-lot subdivision was the only preliminary plat filed for Planning Board approval in time for that board's Jan. 22 meeting.
 ■Received an updated listing of potassium iodide supplies maintained by the department in the event of a nuclear power plant accident affecting citizens. Brunswick County leads the state list, 3,800 units in stock, with each unit containing 14 tablets. The next highest number of units, 1,400, is assigned to the Mecklenburg County Environmental Health Department in Charlotte. The drug is used as a thyroid block to prevent the spread of radiation in the body, said Marcus Williams.
 ■Heard a request from Animal Control to waive or reduce fees for the county's three nursing homes and two rest homes who may want to adopt dogs from the animal shelter to use in pet therapy with patients. Fees are set by Brunswick County Commissioners.
 ■Learned that flouride will not be added to the county's drinking water supply until a new tank arrives and is installed within the next few weeks. The contractor reported that the wrong tank arrived with the equipment, said Rhodes.

whiter and more Republican and they are using the Justice Department and the Voting Rights Act to do that."
 While black state legislators have also opposed creation of minority districts, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union have concurred with the U.S. Justice Department.
 The proposed House restricting plan was adopted by the House on votes that split along party lines and is still subject to amendment before its final adoption by both houses, said Redwine. But, he added, "This is a plan we think the Justice Department will approve. We've covered the areas they wanted us to look at."
 However, Republican leaders in the House are predicting both it and the Senate plan will be rejected.

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House Plan Splits Brunswick

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 Labor City. The district would also include Columbus County and all but a chunk of northwestern Bladen County.
 Redwine opposed creation of minority districts, saying they would dissipate blacks' influence over legislation.
 "It's actually resegregating, putting blacks into political reservations," he said Monday. With other representatives in districts without substantial black populations, he suggested they would be less interested in issues mainly of concern to blacks because their constituents would not be.
 Republicans in the General Assembly, he asserted, "want to create additional minority districts because it enhances their chances of election or re-election."
 "They're going to make districts