

SBTA Board Won't Stop Pushing For Height Limit At Sunset Beach

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

The Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association says it won't give up trying to influence stronger building height regulations on the coastal town's island.

After a meeting last Friday of the SBTA board of directors, a decision was reached to "determine the feelings of our members," as well as to enlist the support of local government officials, said SBTA President Cletus Waldmiller in an interview Saturday.

The SBTA board has not succeeded, in two attempts, in persuading the Sunset Beach Town Council to request the state legislature to set a height limit of 35 feet for buildings constructed on the island.

That rule already exists in the town's zoning ordinance, subject to change by the town's governing body.

However, the proposed legislation would provide that the rule could be changed only by a referendum of residents of Sunset Beach, which is exactly what the organization wants.

A letter from the SBTA board of directors printed in the Feb. 6 issue of *The Brunswick Beacon* stated the board's interest in "adding muscle to our existing 35 foot height limitation zoning ordinance," which the letter suggested could be threatened by the addition of a sewer line to the mainland.

"Currently, the height limitation may be changed at any time by a majority vote of the town council. In other words, three people have the power to change radically

"Our ultimate goal is to take it up with Mr. Redwine"

—Cletus Waldmiller, SBTA President

the landscape and future of our community," the letter stated. "What is wrong with having a decision of such vital importance to the future of our community made by the people of our community?"

That group fears the addition of sewer lines would invite developers to build high-rises on the island, adding that "new council members may not have the commitment to low-rise development that our current members do."

Copies of the letter were also sent to Sunset Beach Town Council members for consideration before their Feb. 3 town meeting.

The proposal was introduced by Councilman Bud Scramton at that meeting. He withdrew his motion after discussion by other members.

While engineers with Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach were speaking to the council about their sewer system study, Councilwoman Julia Thomas asked them if the sewer lines presently being proposed could serve high-rise development.

Engineer Jim Billups answered that the system he and Joe Tombro were planning for Sunset Beach would

be suited to accommodate the community under its current conditions.

When Scramton brought up the height limitation issue later in the meeting, Ms. Thomas said she'd asked the question for the purpose of knowing that the sewer system would put a "check" on high-rise development.

The rest of the council agreed that no need exists to change the present policy on height limitations. Councilwoman Cheri Cheek concurred with Ms. Thomas, stating that she believed the limits on the sewer system would limit the ability to build a high-rise on the island.

Waldmiller, present at the council meeting, asked that the council reconsider, stating that the sewer system could be modified. Larger pumps and larger lines could be installed if larger buildings were built on the island, he argued.

"I don't understand the reluctance on the part of the town council," he said in his rebuttal.

The issue of height limitations was initiated at a Dec. 2 meeting of the Sunset Beach town council, but failed then as well.

At that meeting, Councilman Bud Scramton moved that the coastal community follow the direction of nearby Holden Beach and Long Beach by having the state enact legislation that would change height regulations

only by a majority vote of its residents. Scramton's motion did not receive a second at that meeting, and was dropped from consideration.

In a telephone interview last Thursday, Ms. Thomas explained her reasons for not siding with Scramton on the issue.

"Height regulations could be changed even if it were given over to the state," she said of the proposed state legislation. "You don't have any guarantees."

"The sewer system has been planned for our present height limits, and I don't feel like anyone would do anything to change that," Ms. Thomas continued. "But I do feel there's a definite need for a sewer system, if you look at the overcrowding we have in the summer."

"It's too small, and too pretty like it is," she said of the island's low-rise development. "And I can't see that a sewer system would mean high-rise development. There's no reason to get shook over it."

For now, the issue will be handled by the SBTA board, which Waldmiller said will be in touch with its members to get a feeling for what they want.

"All the feedback we've received has been supportive," Waldmiller said Saturday.

The board also plans to ask State Rep. David Redwine for support on the issue.

"Not until we have more information from our members," he said, "but our ultimate goal is to take it up with Mr. Redwine."



WALDMILLER



SCRANTON



THOMAS



STAFF PHOTO BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Believe It

When they said nine feet, they meant it. This sign over the drive leading from Coastal Plaza shopping center to First Investor's Savings Bank in Shallotte was struck last week by a tractor being hauled on the bed of a truck, reported teller Sonya Potter. "I guess they didn't read the sign," she said.

TITLE CHANGE BY JULY 1

County Takes First Step To Link Libraries

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Commissioners took the first official step in forming a countywide library system Monday.

A joint resolution approved by a 4-0 vote will revert the title to Southport's library branch to Brunswick County on July 1. That will allow the county to operate the library as a department of county government and also establish a new board of trustees.

District 3 Commissioner Gene Pinkerton was away on a business trip and did not attend Monday's meeting. He has expressed support in the past for a county-operated library system and chaired the committee that recommended the move.

The agreement signed by commissioners Monday is subject to approval by the Southport Board of Aldermen.

"I don't see that as being a problem," said County Attorney David Clegg. "It's what they've agreed to."

Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden called it "another historic vote" for the county board.

Presently, the cities of Southport, Shallotte and Brunswick County fund the three library branches—in Southport, Shallotte and Leland. A formal agreement between Southport and the county previously established a board of trustees, with six appointed by commissioners and six by the city of Southport.

But under the county system, a new board of trustees will be selected and library workers will become county employees.

"We are looking at a new library board that geographically represents all areas of the county," said Holden.

Shallotte officials must make the first move if it wants the town's West Brunswick branch library to become part of the county system. Monday's resolution doesn't address the Shallotte or Leland branches for the county had no formal agreements regarding those two sites.

"I don't see any problem there," said Holden.

Plans to reorganize the library system surfaced last fall when residents in the Leland area planned to build a new \$207,000 branch in Leland. The building committee and board of trustees became deadlocked over who should have control of the project.

The board of trustees learned that by state law a library system cannot own buildings or land if it's not part of county government. Leland residents asked that the county assume responsibility for building the new Leland branch and form a countywide system.

Monday's agreement will allow the county and Southport time to make budget decisions for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

"This is one area I want to put as much effort to, in our budget, as we can," said Holden.

Oak Island and Calabash residents are also asking for library branches. A group on Oak Island is raising money to help build a branch.

Other Business

In other business Monday, the board:

■Appointed Charlotte Buckley as minor Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) permit officer for lot permits issued through the Brunswick County Planning Department.

■Approved budget amendments to accept more than \$15,000 in state funds for five Brunswick County

Health Department programs.

■Adopted a resolution asking the N.C. Department of Transportation to erect a sign at Goodman Road (S.R. 1414) and U.S. 17 to mark the Spring Hill community, as requested by residents.

■Set a public hearing on March 2, at 6:15 p.m., on the changing of 30 county road names for various reasons as needed for the county's 911 emergency program.

■Accepted Wilmington Communications' low bid of \$226,299 for radio equipment for the county's enhanced 911 communications program set to begin in April.

■Appointed William Browning to the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board to replace Charlie Lorg of District 5, and tabled naming of a replacement for D.V. Jones, an at-large member who recently resigned.

■Appointed Jonathan Hankins to the Nursing/Domiciliary Advisory Committee.

■Held a public hearing on changes in the N.C. Community Development Block Grant program, which awards money to counties for community revitalization, economic development and low-income housing projects. Proposed changes make the county eligible for more programs and encourages minority and local contractors to become involved in area projects, said Clegg. No one commented on the changes explained by Brunswick County Public Housing Director Perita Price.

BCC Trains 14 In CASAS Literacy Instruction Method

Fourteen people have completed 16 hours of training in a competency-based adult literacy program Brunswick Community College is using now on its three campuses.

By this fall, all BCC literacy classes will be taught using Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) methods.

Completing the training were BCC literacy/GED instructors Rich Dixon, Bill Ganey, Kathy Sessions, Rita Ramphal, Carl White and Ethel P. Gore; BCC Learning Lab staff members Lynn Ruark and Betty Singletary; BCC Literacy Recruiter Catherine Godley; BCC Brunswick Intergency Program staff member Joy Knotts and Brunswick County Literacy Council representatives Edith Bridger, Lila Millett and Gladys Wagenseil.

Anita B. White, director of the Brunswick Intergency Program, served as facilitator. CASAS uses a common sense, life skills approach to teaching. Adult learners are assessed by their mastery of basic functional skills needed in carrying out their daily lives. Also, emphasis is placed on critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.

The next CASAS training is scheduled for two consecutive Saturdays, May 2 and May 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at BCC's main campus.

Anyone interested in teaching adult literacy can sign up for the training. More information about participating in the literacy program as a student or as an instructor is available by calling the college; 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Area Students Receive Honors

Two Brunswick County residents made honor's lists at Campbell University for the 1991 fall semester, announced Paul Johnson of the school's public information office.

Daryl Wayne Trexler of Southport made the president's list, showing eligibility for the dean's list and having a cumulative average of 3.5 or higher. Valerie Lynn Smith of Southport made the dean's list, achieving a grade point average of 3.25 or higher for 12 semester hours.

On Dean's List

Frankie K. Nichols, a graduate of West Brunswick High School and former Brunswick County resident, attained the 1991 fall semester dean's list at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Miss Nichols is a junior at NCSU, majoring in English.

To attain the dean's list, a student must earn a grade point average of 2.50 or better.

Sent Overseas

Airman First Class Bryon F. Chandler, assigned to the U.S.

Central Command Air Forces, has been deployed to Saudi Arabia to assist in the aftermath of Operation Desert Storm.

Chandler, a security specialist, is the son of Carroll F. Chandler of Bolivia and a 1988 graduate of South Brunswick High School, Boiling Spring Lakes.

Promoting Drive

Sky Bramley, exalted ruler of Calabash Elks Lodge No. 2679, was to be interviewed on a Wilmington news program Wednesday, Feb. 19.

He was to be featured in an interview segment with Angela Sparrow during the evening news on WWAY TV-3, promoting the Elks' Feb. 22 blood drive.

Makes List

Jennifer P. Culpepper of Shallotte has been named to the dean's list at High Point University for the 1991 fall semester, announced Bobby Hayes, director of media relations.

To qualify for the honor, Ms. Culpepper completed 12 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Schools Won't Do County Fair

Brunswick County Schools will not hold a countywide curriculum fair this spring, Gloria Yount, public information officer, said Thursday.

Instead, she said, "We will ask each school to have its own curriculum fair."

That should still accomplish the main goal of the event, she said, which is to get information out to the parents on what children are studying and accomplishing in school.

Curriculum fair winners can ad-

vance to district competition in three divisions: science, math and computer science.

On a related note, Lola Jackson, a Shallotte Middle School art teacher and youth exhibit coordinator for Franklin Square Gallery in Southport, is encouraging school art instructors to hold their own school-wide competitions in the absence of a county curriculum fair art show, and to display the winning art works at the Youth Gallery in Franklin Square Gallery.

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