

290 OTHERS NEED NAMES

Ash Road Honors Local Woman

BY TERRY POPE

It had been nine years and nine days since Brunswick County Commissioners adopted the name Virginia Road for a small gravelled street in Ash.

The board took that same action again Monday.

It also agreed to set a public hearing for 6 p.m. April 6 to consider new or revised names for another 290 county roads.

Due to an administrative error, the Ash road name was never officially changed in 1983 from Warren Road to Virginia Road in N.C. Department of Transportation logs as residents were led to believe.

The county had ordered and erected signs bearing the Virginia Road name. When questions arose, some residents appeared before commissioners last week requesting the road be renamed Warren Road.

Resident Angela Smith said she was pleased with the vote taken Monday to keep Virginia Road the official name.

Her family presented a petition signed by property owners asking that it stay named after Angela's mother, Virginia Dora Smith. The road serves as a memorial to the former substitute teacher and bus driver at Waccamaw Elementary School, she explained.

"I'm happy. Very much so," said Ms. Smith. "I feel this is the way it should have been done to start with."

Residents there had also gathered the names of 304 people in the community who wanted the byway to remain Virginia Road.

"It's official now," District 1 Commissioner Kelly Holden told the Smith family that had gathered in the commissioners' chambers Monday.

According to the petition, Virginia Smith was a highly-regarded member of the community and was "loved and admired by students whose lives she touched." She was a Sunday school teacher and secretary-treasurer of her church.

It was with love that members of the community suggested naming State Road 1325 in honor of the woman, the petition states.

"This road led to her birthplace and to her home where she lived the last years of her life," it stated. "This road is where she played as a child and where she played with her children as well."

The road has been a source of "comfort and pride to all that knew and loved Virginia Dora Smith," the petition stated.

A resolution adopted by commissioners on March 7, 1983, naming it Virginia Road was somehow forgotten in the administrative shuffle of paperwork.

It was named the Warren Road af-



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE
VIRGINIA ROAD IN ASH was officially named the Virginia Road by action of Brunswick County Commissioners Monday.

ter the Roscoe Warren family in 1981. There are an estimated 23 people who own property on the 3,200-foot byway that intersects with Whiteville Road (N.C. 130).

Planners are working to eliminate duplicate or similar road names in preparation for the 911 communications program set to begin in April. All streets with two or more homes that do not have names must be given names.

The 290 on the list that will go to a public hearing on April 6 are scattered throughout the county.

Other Business

In other business Monday, commissioners:

- Approved the following budget increases, to reflect additional state or local funds: \$75,000 from Carolina Power and Light Co. to the Emergency Operations Center for equipment; \$644 to animal control for pre-exposure rabies vaccines; \$29,100 to Brunswick County Clerk of Court for detention services and jury expenses; \$6,500 and \$9,270 for family health programs at the Brunswick County Health Department; and \$18,710 resulting from an

increase in capital outlay funds.

- Accepted a petition from Standard Products, which wants to abandon 662 feet of a road the company built with private funds near Oak Island.

- Heard of changes in state renovation fund applications for future projects through the Resources Development Commission.

- Made the following appointments: Ms. Bobbie White to the Sunset Beach Planning Board and Board of Adjustment, to replace Joe Policelli; Dr. Harry Johnson and Robert Helms to the Brunswick County Board of Health, to replace Dr. Marcus Williams and Jerry Lewis; Ms. Leslie Collier of Long Beach to the Nursing Home and Domiciliary Advisory Board; and Ms. Sharon Bulman to the Aging Advisory Board.

- Abolished and recreated the Brunswick County Keep America Beautiful Board, restructuring it to include five instead of 12 members. Appointed to staggered terms were Jane Gilbert, Susan Green, Mary Russ, Rosemary Long and Paul Austin. The board had a history of failing to obtain quorums for meetings.

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