

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

August 27, 2007, 2 pm

Acronyms:

CRC – Coastal Resources Commission

NCDCM – North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

Attendance.

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Commission Members Pete Allen, William Donnelly, Jack Goldstein, Tom Hoover, Joan Lamson, Ted Lindblad, Jim Stephenson, Jim Willis, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Eddie Dawkins and Stewart Pickett were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – July 23, 2007).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no comments forthcoming from the Commission, member Goldstein motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Hoover and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned the July occupancy tax report constitutes the first report for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The July total eclipsed the \$1 million mark three or four years ago and has remained consistently above this threshold although the July 2007 report was down by 1% compared to the July 2006 collection. The secretary mentioned that two collectors have yet to report and some of the collections associated with the July 4th holiday may have been incorporated into the June 2007 collection. The beach fund reserve after this first month of the fiscal year is estimated to be at \$4.6 million. Member Goldstein mentioned that we shouldn't overlook the impact of the Tall Ships Event in 2006, which may have skewed last year's figures upward and accordingly, this year's collections may look un-proportionally neutral or slight decreased. Member Goldstein added that although not impacting the overall collection total; the “condo-tels” are now reported in hotel/motel sector rather than the condo/cottage sector. Member Stephenson asked if there was a historical chart depicting occupancy collections over time. Secretary Rudolph replied that a new version of the chart will be prepared for the Commission's January 2008 meeting once the calendar year concludes.
- (4) **Discussion – Proposed Rule Language for Oceanfront Development Setbacks.** – Secretary Rudolph introduced the topic by mentioning that in March of last year, the Beach Commission discussed oceanfront setbacks in general and their relationship to beach nourishment projects in the form of the static line. The Commission decided at that time to not offer public comment to

avoid being categorized as an advocate for one side of the argument or the other (development or non-development). Now, there are two rules being promulgated by NCDCCM addressing these topics and the Beach Commission may wish to comment on the rule as they have been approved for public comment by the CRC. The purpose of the Powerpoint presentation today is to de-mystify the current rules, the proposed rules, and offer some comments for the Commission to think about. Public comment is scheduled for November 29-30, 2007 at the CRC's meeting in Greenville, N.C. Accordingly, the Commission has plenty of time to digest the issue and decide whether or not to offer public comment at this time and/or what form the public comment should take.

The Shore Protection Office's presentation is available at:

http://www.protectthebeach.com/minutes/2007/static%20line%20agenda%2008_4.ppt

Following the presentation, member Donnelly shared that the proposed rules have very little relevance to the Beach Commission's mandate and role within County government. The majority of the stipulations contained in the proposed rules are germane to individual property rights and member Donnelly reiterated that it was not the Beach Commission's role to provide public comment. Chairman Fugate agreed and by consensus, the Beach Commission elected not to offer public comment. However the Commission did agree that because potential static line exemption requests would emanate from individual municipalities; the municipalities should comment on the rule. Member Lindblad subsequently mentioned that if the static line rule does not meet its intention, then it could impact the County's ability to nourish beaches prudently in order to protect property and the economy because structures may be inadvertently allowed to be placed closer to the ocean's edge.

- (5) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (6) **Other Business.** – None.
- (7) **September 2007 Meeting Date (September 24, 2007 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting scheduled for September 2007 would be held on the 24th of the month at 2:00 pm, PKS Town Hall.
- (8) **Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the Permitted Purpose of Discussing Confidential Information.**
- (9) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.