
Newsletter

HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION November 2008

Our Mission: To represent the property owners of Holden Beach as a unified voice regarding issues that affect their common interests and concerns

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2008 - 2009

Nov 29th – Thanksgiving Weekend Meeting
April 11th – Easter Weekend Meeting
May 23rd – Memorial Day Weekend Meeting
September 5th – Labor Day Weekend Meeting

All HBPOA meetings start at **10AM** and are now held in the **Holden Beach Chapel Fellowship Hall**, due to construction of the new Town Hall – please join us!

MESSAGE FROM THE HBPOA PRESIDENT

The election is over, hurricane season is winding down, and the holidays are now just around the corner. I look forward to seeing you at our Thanksgiving weekend meeting. The HBPOA has been quite busy since our last meeting on Labor Day. We conducted our first online survey to determine how our members felt about allowing cabanas on the beach. Based on the results of this survey, we proceeded to develop refrigerator magnets requesting that cabanas and other structures be removed from the beach at sunset.

Our beach strand has definitely taken a hit this fall from Hanna and other storms. I hope that our voluntary / educational approach to the cabana issue will solve a problem without the need for more regulations. Please pick up your magnets at our next meeting. We are trying to communicate with our members via email, but we are afraid you might not be getting our messages because your computer thinks they are spam or junk mail. Please check your filters and make sure our email address (HBPOA@hotmail.com) is flagged as safe. We plan to approve our budget and take action on other important issues at our next meeting, which will be our last one until next spring – so please join us.

Best regards,

Tom Myers
HBPOA President



MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Whew – its been an action packed, event filled late summer and early fall; dodging direct hits from two significant storm events while staying on track with the construction of the new town hall and wrapping up final punch list items for acceptance of the new emergency operations center have been but a few challenges presented to us this quarter. This quarter's update will concentrate on beach nourishment.

As many of you probably are aware; the two storm events of early fall, Hanna and the no name storm that followed a couple of weeks later, pounded the Brunswick County beaches and provided a good test of this past spring's and previous beach nourishment/dune building efforts. Sand placements, vegetation and sand fencing proved their worth as they performed marvelously; absorbing wave energy and preventing property damage. While property damages were minimized when compared to previous catastrophic losses experienced prior to development of an engineered nourished strand; the damages that were seen were for the most part experienced by the beach strand itself.

Surprisingly enough and contrary to initial reports of minimal property damages to structures, emergency management officials from the State and Federal governments have estimated that approximately 300,000 cubic yards of sand were lost along with the sand fence and vegetation that we have placed previously to complement our beach nourishment projects. Total value estimated for replacement of this sand, vegetation and fencing exceeded \$9 million dollars and almost singlehandedly qualified the state of North Carolina for FEMA reimbursement of storm caused expenses.

The Town has been working closely with FEMA and the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management since the passage of Hanna to

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quantify monetary reimbursements for the Town. We have completed the first two of three categorical qualification packages with the third and by far the largest – storm damage- being developed by a team of FEMA Technical Advising Consulting engineers and our own coastal consulting engineers. As of press time a final dollar amount has not been computed but verbal assurances from FEMA and NCOEM have been extremely positive in their assessment of the Town's beach engineering program qualifying completely for monetary reimbursements.

My personal opinion (subject of course to vagaries of the FEMA/NCOEM approval process) is that it may take up to a month to satisfy FEMA inquiries with another month passing before any decision regarding federal funding come forth. It is doubtful that this will allow adequate time for execution of any large scale nourishment this winter especially since major permits will be required and our current permit for nourishment expired this spring. Our beach consulting engineers are working diligently to develop required permits as quickly as possible but realistically it looks like any really large scale project can't happen before the winter of 09/10.

There are three recent significant events relating to beach nourishment – the first two of which will result in sand placement this winter and the third which will provide for a longer term sand source option for larger scale nourishment projects. The first; an emergency dune construction between Avenue A and Avenue C on the east end, has been designed, permitted and construction authorized; will shape approximately four thousand cubic yards into a dune approximately 10 feet high and 30 feet wide on what was previously the old Ocean Boulevard East right of way during the week of 16-20 November.

This is a stop gap measure to offer temporary protection for the houses and water lines located there until the second event; an Army Corps of Engineers Lockwood Folly Inlet Crossing (i.e., the Inner Bar) Navigation Maintenance Dredging Project is completed.

This Inner Bar Project will place 85,000 cubic yards of beach compatible sand on a 2000 foot reach of strand from Ave A to Avenue E on the east end. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Resources will fund half the project's \$785,000 cost with Brunswick County and the Town equally sharing the other half of the project's cost. Contract is scheduled to be let by the Corps on the 25th of November with actual construction date to be

determined by the contractor but no completion will be no later than 30 April 09.

Last and not least is the 13 November 08 approval granted by the Brunswick County Board of Adjustment for a Special Exception Class I Mining Permit for the Town owned property located off Turkey Trap Road. This is the last major permit required to allow the town access to a calculated 371,000 cubic yards of beach compatible sand.

As of today, that's about it for current events relating to beach nourishment. I will endeavor to keep everyone apprised of our progress as our FEMA project develops and permits are acquired.

Sincerely,

David W. Hewett
Town Manager

NEWS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

The 2008 Labor day membership meeting was held on August 30th at the Holden Beach Chapel. President Tom Myers called the meeting to order at 10 AM. Sixty-seven members were present, thus establishing a quorum. The minutes of March 22, 2008 and May 24, 2008 were approved. The financial report showed a total balance of \$28,013.70. Total membership is 862 with 17 new members in 2008.

President Myers reminded everyone that the Directors' meeting starts at 9 AM and everyone is welcome to attend. The 2009 budget will be submitted at the Thanksgiving meeting.

Directors Lytvinenko and Skubic have been meeting with the town Manager about the Town's debt load. That information plus a breakdown of the BPART money will be sent to HBPOA members. All items for the November newsletter must be sent to tom Myers by November 1.

A long discussion followed about cabanas on the beach—whether to ban them completely, have no regulations, or require them to be taken down at sunset. It was finally decided that educating the public should be tried for a year. The HBPOA will donate refrigerator magnets for educational purposes.

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New directors elected by acclamation were Dennis Harrington and Ed Brannock for the 2008-2011 terms and Betty Curtis and Tony Marwitz for the 2009 term.

Town Manager David Hewitt reported that the odor at the pump stations has been eliminated. The Town is applying for permits to place more sand on the beach after November.

Chief Layne announced that the Neighbor Watch Program would begin again in September. There were no major crime problems during the summer. Commissioner Marty Cooke said that the ban on cabanas in Ocean Isle had not been a problem. Bill Spier thanking everyone who had participated in the Second Helping program. They donated more food this summer than ever. Mayor Holden warned that the hurricane season was not over and everyone should stay prepared. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

HOLDEN BEACH BIKE TASKFORCE

Holden Beach is quickly becoming a "Bike Friendly" town. In September, Holden Beach Mayor Alan Holden asked volunteers to participate in a bicycle task force formed to establish a bicycle route on Holden Beach. Members included residents Carol Byrnside, Becky Reinhart, John Lytvinenko, and town employee Alicia Sides.

Research

The team researched numerous NC counties & towns and discovered that many are pursuing formal and informal "Bike Friendly" initiatives and economic impact studies supporting "Bike Friendly" efforts. Specifically, Cary, Raleigh, Wilmington, Dare County (Hatteras, Corolla, Nagshead) are a few. Locally, there are comprehensive bike plans under way in Leland, Wrightsville Beach, and Wilmington.

There is a NCDOT website that contains Digital Bicycle Maps & Route Information from around the state. Additionally, there is a group called the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization BikePed Committee, created in April 2007. This is a Transportation Advisory Committee on issues regarding bicycle and pedestrian programs.

"Olden Holden Bike Tour"

The Holden Beach Bicycle Task Force has put together a pleasant historical tour by bike and is affectionately calling this the **"Olden Holden Bike Tour."** On the bike tour you will see different routes

and many points of interest across the island. Fun historical facts and legends such as: First public water system; Old ferry and "Jack sticks"; Civil War shipwrecks; German U-Boats; and first public telephone, which was at Bill Grady's Grocery Store. Also included along the way are stops at our scenic parks and rest areas.

The team engaged and solicited input from local historians, residents, several history books. Franda Pedlow; Alan, Lyn, and Toni Holden; Buck Breese, and many others contributed to this bike tour effort.

The Bicycle Task Force presented the Bike Tour proposed brochure and recommendations at the October 28th Town Commissioners meeting for approval. The mayor and several commissioners were very impressed with the results and requested costs estimates for implementation. The team will present those estimates at the November 25th Town Commissioners meeting for approval. If the Commissioners approve the Bike Tour, then HBPOA members will receive a copy of the **"Olden Holden Bike Tour"** brochure via email.

CABANA ONLINE SURVEY

At the Labor Day meeting, our membership discussed options related to cabanas on the beach. A motion was made and approved for the association to create a refrigerator magnet requesting that all cabanas, volleyball nets and other structures be removed at sunset each evening.

During our discussions, a concern was raised that the wording on the magnet might not reflect the opinion of the majority of our membership. Therefore, we decided to conduct an opinion survey using our new iContact email service. On September 17th a survey was sent out to 713 email addresses. We received over 200 responses within the first twelve hours. All together, we received responses from 57% of the recipients (i.e., 361 out of 636 valid addresses).

We asked our membership to choose one of three opinions. The results are as follows:

1. Cabanas should be allowed on the beach at all times, including overnight: 66 (18.28%)
2. Cabanas should be allowed on the beach during the day, but not overnight: 246 (68.14%)
3. Cabanas should not be allowed on the beach at any time: 49 (13.57%)

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HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING OUR EMAIL?

We are concerned that our online survey and other email messages might be getting caught in your spam filters or viewed as junk mail. If you did not receive our online survey, or electronic versions of our newsletter, please check your spam filer or junk mailbox. The messages are from Holden Beach POA (HBPOA@hotmail.com). Please flag this address as not spam. You should have received the cabana survey on 9/16/2008, and our August newsletter on 8/17/2008. This newsletter is also being sent electronically this week.

CABANA MAGNET

Here is a proof of the "cabana magnet" we have produced

