

To: Southern Shores Town Council (Hal Denny, Jodi Hess, George Kowalski, Jim Pfizenmayer, Kevin Stroud)

Copies: Town Manager (Charlie Read)

Town Attorney (Ben Gallop)

Town Staff (Pat Forrester, Carrie Gordon, Alvin Rountree, Merrie Smith, Bonnie Swain)

Planning Board (Mike Florez, Bill Gleason, Larry Lawhon, Bob Palombo, Jay Russell, Nancy Wendt, Sam Williams and ETJ Rep, Ed Overton)

From: Wes Haskett, Town Planner

Date: January 26, 2010

Re: Recap, PAG Working Session January 4, 2010

PB / PAG RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

None

PAG MEETING RECAP JANUARY 4, 2010

The Planning Advisory Group working session convened at 7:00pm. Planning Board Members Nancy Wendt, Jay Russell, Mike Florez, Bob Palombo, Sam Williams, alternate member Larry Lawhon, Code Enforcement Officer Alvin Rountree and Town Planner Wes Haskett were present.

AGENDA

Nancy Wendt noted that the planned agenda for the January 4th meeting was to discuss three items:

1. Contents of the Planning Board report for the Town Council's retreat;
2. Resource requirements for 2010 planning projects; and
3. Status of current planning projects.

Since the Planning Board submitted its resource requirements for 2010 to the Town Planner on December 18, 2009 and project status has not changed since the last report in December due to the holidays, Nancy proposed that the group use the meeting time to discuss next steps for the Stormwater and Transportation projects, two key elements of the Planning Board report for the Town Council's retreat. PAG members agreed.

STORMWATER IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The discussion began with a review of the history of stormwater management in Southern Shores. In September of 2003 hurricane Isabelle caused widespread flooding for many areas of the Outer Banks. In January 2004 the Town Council approved Ordinance 1104. This ordinance defines stormwater obstruction of roadways to be a nuisance and thus subject to the nuisance abatement regulations for Southern Shores.

In August and September of 2004 a series of tropical storms pushed annual rainfall above 60” per year versus the previous average of 40” per year. This shift in the weather cycle resulted in a high water table and increased roadway flooding after every significant rain event.

In September 2004 the Town Council chartered the Stormwater Policy Advisory Committee to study the problem of roadway flooding and to recommend solutions for Southern Shores.

During this same time period Marc Basnight organized a county-wide committee on stormwater management. Participants included municipalities, NC DOT and watershed protection experts such as the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI). At the kickoff meeting of Basnight’s committee the environmentally oriented participants like CSI spoke to the need for comprehensive watershed management including:

1. Flood control
2. Stormwater runoff management
3. Water quality preservation & improvement
4. Erosion & sedimentation control

Southern Shores efforts, like most municipalities, focused primarily on flood control. Stormwater runoff from individual properties was addressed only with respect to the impact it has on roadway flooding. To date, the potential impacts that stormwater runoff can have on water quality, erosion and sedimentation have not been addressed. Nancy noted that at some point these aspects of stormwater management need to be addressed in a comprehensive water resource master plan for Southern Shores. This master plan in turn needs to be linked to the CAMA LUP.

Between 2004 and 2007 a number of stormwater studies were commissioned by Southern Shores and/or by teams of sponsors of which Southern Shores was one. They included:

STUDY / EQUIPMENT		AMOUNT
NC 12 Drainage Improvements (* See note below)	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)	\$ 15,000.00
Drainage Study	Quible & Associates, P.C.	\$ 40,811.00
Chicahawk Study	Land Management Group, Inc. (LMG)	\$ 65,000.00
Rain gauges, wells, software	(Property of Town of Southern Shores)	\$ 23,000.00
Analysis, recommendations	UNC Coastal Studies Institute	\$ 20,000.00
	total	\$ 163,811.00

* The NC 12 Drainage Improvement study was done in conjunction with NC DOT. At the conclusion of the study NC DOT stated that it would not consider drainage improvements to NC 12 within the boundaries of Southern Shores until the town corrected the stormwater runoff from the town maintained roads that drain water onto NC 12.

The Stormwater Policy Advisory Committee did not participate in the studies listed above, but it did receive the reports and factored them into the findings and recommendations that the Committee presented to the Town Council on April 24, 2007. The Council accepted the Committee’s report, but due to limited resources it acted on only a few of the recommendations.

For example, the Committee identified 29 roadway flooding problem areas. The Committee prioritized these 29 problem areas based on the severity of the flooding and the number of people affected. TOSS funded stormwater improvement work on the following 5.

1. Dewberry Court
2. 44 E Dogwood
3. S Dogwood Trail at KHES
4. NC 12 at SS Realty
5. Ginguite Trail

In addition to these improvements Southern Shores engaged Quible & Associates to design a drainage solution for the flooding problems on Chicahawk Trail. Quible informally presented this proposal to the community in conjunction with a PAG Transportation Plan presentation on April 6, 2009. This proposed solution is still pending review and approval by the Town Council.

Since 2004, in the absence of a specific Stormwater Implementation Plan and Schedule, the Town's practice has been to address roadway flooding problems as needed when road repair projects are initiated. The following concepts guide these actions.

1. Keep stormwater runoff on site.
2. Recommend driveway cuts to promote on site infiltration of runoff.
3. Crown roads.
4. Use swales instead of curbs to promote roadside absorption.

With respect to policy, the Stormwater Committee made 5 recommendations in its presentation to the Council on April 24, 2007. The status of these recommendations is as follows.

RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE
1. Enact a new fee to fund stormwater improvements	No Action to Date
2. Continue monitoring ground water levels and develop warning system	No Action to Date
3. Make water quality a goal for stormwater management	No Action to Date
4. Perform roadside maintenance to promote infiltration	Some roadside areas have been cleared to promote better drainage, but there is no overall implementation plan or schedule for all town maintained roadsides.
5. Prevent driveways from contributing stormwater to public street	<p>Ordinance 1104 was proposed, adopted & put into effect as of January 2004. This ordinance defines stormwater obstruction of roadways to be a nuisance & thus subject to the nuisance abatement regulations for TOSS.</p> <p>Consistent with Ordinance 1104, Code Enforcement has included stormwater runoff issues in its regular inspection & enforcement work since 2004.</p>

After the April 24, 2007 Report, the Town Council requested that Jay Russell redirect the Stormwater Committee to develop a Stormwater Implementation Plan for Southern Shores. Consistent with this request, Jay Russell has prepared a number of discussion drafts and reviewed each of them with Alvin Rountree (CE), Joe Anlauf (Quible & Associates), Robert McClendon (CSI).

Jay's discussion drafts have explored the possibility of stormwater ordinance amendments, stormwater design guidelines and the division of the Town into four separate districts according

to topography and hydrology. The intent of the four districts is to customize stormwater management requirements to fit the specific conditions in each district. Proposed districts are:

1. Beach.
2. Dunes east of N.C. 12.
3. Dunes west of N.C. 12.
4. Maritime forest.

To date, a consensus recommendation has proved elusive. Consequently, the question in front of the PAG is how the Stormwater Committee should proceed in 2010.

OPTION 1 - The first option is to focus on correcting flooding on town maintained roadways. This option entails

- Documenting Southern Shores' stormwater policies and action items (strategy level plans not project level plans)
- Engaging Joe Anlauf, Town Engineer, to draft design guidelines and specific project level solutions to the highest priority problem areas.

OPTION 2 – The second option is to develop a comprehensive long range water resource master plan for the Southern Shores' watershed. This master plan would follow the long range plan template and would address all four water management issues:

- Flood control
- Stormwater runoff
- Water quality, and
- Erosion and sedimentation issues.

The resulting master plan would provide an integrated framework of policy statements and action items, in other words a long range strategy for moving forward.

Nancy Wendt suggested that the group at least look at all four water management goals before the current CAMA LUP update is completed. The rest of the team voted to defer a water resources master plan to later in the year and to focus immediate efforts on design guidelines for reducing roadway flooding as soon as possible. Nancy Wendt, Jay Russell, and Wes Haskett will be meeting in the first quarter of 2010 to determine specific next steps to move this option forward.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Nancy Wendt, Bob Palombo, and Wes Haskett will be meeting in the first quarter of 2010 to look at what has been done and determine what needs to be added and/or removed from the Transportation Plan.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

1. Planning Board meeting January 19, 2009 7pm to 9pm at Pitts Center
 - Permit Applications as received
 - Proposed Ordinance as received
2. PAG working session January 19, 2009 following Planning Board meeting.
 - Final review of material for Town Council Retreat
 - All PAG projects general status

ADJOURNMENT

The PAG meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.