

# **Town of Southern Shores**

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#### **MEETING MINUTES**

PLANNING BOARD-JANUARY 18, 2022, 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: PITTS CENTER-5377 N VIRGINIA DARE TRAIL, SOUTHERN SHORES, NC 27949

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## I. CALL TO ORDER:

15 Chairperson Andy Ward called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Planning Board Members Lynda 16 Burek, Ed Lawler, Robert McClendon, Jan Collins, Tony DiBernardo (Vice Chairperson), Andy 17

Ward (Chairperson), and Deputy Town Manager/Planning Director Wes Haskett were present.

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## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairperson Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairperson Ward moved to strike item IV. approval of minutes and approve the agenda as amended, Seconded by Vice Chair DiBernardo. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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## IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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#### V. OLD BUSINESS

#### <u>Discussion of Potential Amendments to Town Code Chapter 26, Solid Waste</u>

Chairperson Ward welcomed members from the real estate community to be a part of the discussion on issues with solid waste collection in Southern Shores: Monica Tibideou, Mike Stone, Dan Hardy, Dave Roberts, and Bay Disposal solid waste representative, Pam Marlow.

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Chairperson Ward read the list of recommended improvements that he had summarized from previous Planning Board comments.

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#### Suggested Improvements to Solid Waste Ordinance

- Replace "should" with "shall" in several areas within ordinance (i.e. 24 hr. rollback) (TCA)
- 40 • Establish minimum number of trash and recycle receptacles based on advertised occupancy 41 (TCA)
- 42 Clear and prominent labeling with arrows toward street on can's lid showing TRASH or 43 RECYCLE (TCA)
  - Require fully functional lid covering entire receptacle (TCA)
  - Support help from Public Works in off-season roll-backs and clearly obvious receptacle mishaps

- Enlist Police Department help for ID'ing excessive offenders, using provided data base of rental managers' contact information
  - Compile a concise notice to send to all property owners and rental managers of pertinent ordinances and expectations explaining penalties for non-compliance (see Section 26-11) (Staff)
  - Create brief educational plea for tenant's welcome packet (see "Requirement for Rental Managers") to be required by ordinance (TCA/Staff)

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### Suggested Requirements for Rental Managers

- Provide info on advertised occupancy: occupants must be less than or equal to the septic capacity registered with Dare County Health Department
- Provide direct contact info (phone/email) for head property manager
- Include in tenant's welcome packet a brief educational plea (cut/pasted from TOSS) about trash and recycling, to include:
  - do not overfill container
  - lids open towards street
  - no loose trash/recycle outside receptacles
  - collection day schedule
  - roll back within 24 hours of collection
    - do not mix trash with recyclables
    - do not bag recyclables

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Planning Board Member Lawler clarified that recycle receptacles can only have loose items, no bags.

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- Carolina Design Real Estate representative and the Town of Duck mayor pro tem Monica Tibideou provided her comments on the Planning Board's ordinance suggestions and what has helped their property management business recently.
- 1. The Town of Duck will be discussing trash/recycle receptacles along Duck rd. at their next retreat.
- 79 2. Split days for trash and recycle service only exacerbate the problem.
- 80 3. Reference number of cans required by number of bedrooms, not by occupancy. It would be clearer and easier to convey the expectation.
- 4. Property managers would not have an issue receiving calls from town hall staff when a particular property needs more cans.
- 5. Sending text messages to renters as a reminder of trash day has been extremely beneficial (software program their business uses). It is difficult to educate new renters every seven days.
- 87 6. Stickers on the cans could be helpful.
- 7. Having public works or someone else roll the cans back off Duck rd. is a good idea, both safety and aesthetics reasons. Roll back service is an idea but would be costly for town wide.
- 90 8. Willing to work with placing cans out on certain days if the ordinance regulates not leaving cans out on non-collection days.
- 92 9. There used to be a penalty for not rolling cans back, this was a disaster and homeowners felt penalized for the renter mistakes.

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Dan Hardy with Joe Lamb Jr. & Associates suggested use of dumpsters at the larger houses, rather than numerous cans.

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Dave Roberts with Outer Banks Blue asked if the current ordinance dictates the number of cans required. Chairperson Ward confirmed the ordinance does and he hoped to have those numbers updated to reflect the size of current homes and occupancy.

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Vice Chairperson DiBernardo stated the ordinance was written in 1986 and the number of trash/recycle cans required does not fall into today's environment.

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Mike Stone with Southern Shores Realty stated the past two years have not been normal years and everyone is struggling to get staff.

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108 Chairperson Ward stated that the biggest issue going through town is Pelican Watch to  $13^{th}$  Avenue, the main corridor.

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Dan Hardy recommended an education effort, stating we all know there is an issue, and it is occurring in every town.

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Monica Tibideou stated that the tenants are not going to read the welcome packets if you put something in there. It would need to be communicated by a sign or something directly on the wall by the trash/recycle cans.

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Planning Board Member Jan Collins inquired about a roll out service.

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Dan Hardy stated the homeowners and tenants will reply that you are already charging enough.
As far as staffing goes, we already are having issues getting done the main tasks right now much less move trash around. There has got to be a better way to get through to these renters.

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Mike Stone said the best thing the Town had done was create magnets with the pickup dates, but these are no longer available.

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Chairperson Ward inquired with each real estate representative if they had the text message software capability, which some representatives communicated they did, and others only had email communication availability.

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Planning Director Haskett stated about the split day service, the Town has tried getting the days closer together, but it has not worked out.

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134 Mike Stone said he understood it to be a significant savings in the contract price and Bay 135 Disposal was unable to service trash and recycle on the same day.

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Pam Marlow with Bay Disposal agreed they would be willing to provide stickers for the receptacles. Bay Disposal does not provide roll out service. She said the biggest issue for them was the placement of bags outside of the cans.

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Dan Hardy stated the handout requirements mentions penalties, which the government entity could not fine a third-party entity, but they could go after the homeowner for not pulling their can back. Could the Town tackle this by doing a rental service fee on the homeowners that have properties in the rental program?

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Chairperson Ward stated that was a good question but did not know if that was possible.

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Chairperson Ward thanked Bay Disposal and all the real estate representatives for attending and their input.

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Vice Chairperson DiBernardo stated he agreed that the number of cans should be correlated to number of bedrooms. It is easier for renters to understand. Dumpsters could be a possibility on large homes.

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155 Chairperson Ward stated he did not have a problem with the language, advertised occupancy.

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- Chairman Ward reviewed the proposed can count as originally referenced in the December 20<sup>th</sup> suggestions. Revise Section 26-6(a) to be based on bedrooms or septic capacity.
- 8-10 occupants (4-5 bedrooms): 4 trash receptacles, 2 recycle receptacles.
  - 12-16 occupants (6-8 bedrooms): 5 trash receptacles, 2 recycle receptacles.
  - 16-20 occupants (9+ bedrooms): 6 trash receptacles, 3 recycle receptacles.
  - 20+ occupants: 7 trash receptacles, 4 recycle receptacles

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Planning Board Member McClendon asked at what point do we require a small dumpster? Stating, that number of cans is ridiculous. Put it on the homeowner to be responsible for the dumpster.

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Planning Board Member Jan Collins agreed with the dumpster and making the homeowner responsible for paying for it and the collection.

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Planning Board Member Lawler stated if you are generating that much trash, you need to have a dumpster.

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174 Chairperson Ward asked Planning Director Haskett is there was anything against utilizing 175 dumpsters in the current ordinance. Planning Director Haskett stated there is nothing that 176 addresses residential dumpsters, and you could certainly suggest it to Council.

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Chairperson Ward recommended going with the number of cans to Council and as a caveat, suggest a dumpster once you hit occupancy of 20+.

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Planning Board Member Lawler recommended allowing the dumpster as an option, cost to be paid by property owner.

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Planning Board Member McClendon suggested writing an ordinance that would allow dumpsters.

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Chairperson Ward stated the dumpsters would only be required at two properties in Town.

Vice Chairperson DiBernardo asked Town Manager Ogburn if the Town services dumpsters under the current contract.

Town Manager Ogburn stated Bay Disposal currently picks up a specific number of dumpsters and possibly could be negotiated to service two more.

Planning Board Member McClendon would like to provide all homeowners the option if dumpsters are going to be allowed in lieu of multiple cans. The property owner would need to pay for it.

Vice Chairperson DiBernardo stated the Town cannot negotiate for twenty more dumpsters, the homeowner would have to pay for it and do a negotiation with the Town.

Town Manager Ogburn stated he did not know if you could provide a service for some but not all. You could do it for commercial but not residential.

Planning Director Wes Haskett stated staff will investigate the number and cost with Bay Disposal depending on how this TCA progresses.

Chairperson Ward reviewed what was the important sticking points; labeling the cans, secured lids, a mailing or educational packet to all homeowners and property management companies, and fines for noncompliance. He further stated he thought it was important to keep the rental management companies honest on the capacity limits/occupancy in line with the septic capacity, which was not the case several years ago.

Vice Chairperson DiBernardo said he heard what the property management company stated about not being able to fine the companies, but you can fine the homeowner which will be a negative. That homeowner will then put pressure on the property management to do more about the trash issue, which is a positive.

Chairperson Ward stated he would take the list of suggestions to Council at their February meeting.

Planning Board Member Lawler asked if we could move forward with the stickers from Bay Disposal? Planning Director Haskett stated he would follow up with Pam Marlow.

Vice Chairperson DiBernardo stated he belonged to the NC Recycling Association, and they may have stickers available.

Planning Board Member McClendon said for the benefit of the Town, the appearance issue that has brought all of this up, would be to investigate a rollout service for the main corridor through Town.

Chairperson Ward stated that was private homeowner associations that hired a rollout service.

Planning Board Member McClendon asked if the Town could do the same and assess those property owners?

Town Manager Ogburn said he did not know if you could assess some but not the others for the service. A local company called Trash Detail does this rollout service. The argument becomes if they are receiving the service, so should everyone in Town.

#### VI. New Business

None

#### VII. Public Comment

Councilmember Paula Sherlock-agrees that a dumpster would be better than looking at 7 to 8 trash cans lined up out front of the property.

## XIII. Planning Board Member Comments

Vice Chairperson DiBernardo reported that Town Council did pass a produce stand ordinance with a few minor changes.

Chairperson Ward will take the Chapter 26 suggestions to Town Council. He also met with Planning Director Wes Haskett, Town Manager Ogburn, Councilman Neal and Mayor Morey to hone in some signage issues that Council may have. The Planning Board will meet one more time to discuss signs before it goes to staff and the Town Attorney for revisions. The Planning Board will then review the revised ZTA before consideration by Council.

#### IX. Announcements

Planning Director Wes Haskett stated the next meeting is Tuesday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Items on the agenda could be continued solid waste, 160d but most likely not signage.

## X. Adjourn

Hearing no further business, **motion** made by Vice Chairperson DiBernardo to adjourn, Seconded by Planning Board Member Burek. Motion passed unanimously. The time was 7:03 P.M.

ATTEST:

Andy Ward, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Kane, Town Clerk