

Emerald Tidings
Island Review – December 18 issue

Town Implements New Business Procedures

The Town is currently implementing new procedures for people who wish to open a new business within the town. New businesses are required to secure zoning approvals, building code approvals, Fire code approvals, other permits (such as ABC permits), and a privilege license in order to legally operate in the Town of Emerald Isle. These requirements are not new, as they have been in place for several years. The Town is, however, transitioning from a fragmented process to a centralized, coordinated process. Town staff have worked hard to devise a system that 1) coordinates the process with all affected Town departments, 2) will insure compliance with the appropriate requirements, and 3) provides an efficient and quick process for new business owners.

New business owners should contact Town Hall at 354-3424 or visit the front desk at Town Hall to initiate the process. Town staff have developed a new information packet that explains the whole process from where to go first, and why, how they will schedule necessary building and fire inspections, up through the issuance of the license allowing the new business to open. A checklist has been developed that will walk new business owners through this process, and is included in the information packet.

Depending on the nature of the business, and the degree to which deficiencies exist and the timeframe for correction of these deficiencies, the new business owner should allow up to one full workweek to secure the necessary approvals. Town staff will certainly work hard to expedite the process, and attempt to complete the process in a shorter time frame if possible.

Sand Fencing – Beach Nourishment Project

In preparation for the Eastern Phase of the Emerald Isle Beach Nourishment Project, Town staff recently removed sand fencing from various locations along the oceanfront. This sand fencing was removed either because it is in poor condition, or will be buried by the nourishment project. Intact fencing was removed, rolled, and placed under the oceanfront structures for future re-use, and damaged fencing was discarded.

Oceanfront property owners are encouraged to re-install sand fencing at the base of newly constructed dunes after the project is complete later this spring. Sand fencing must be installed in accordance with NC Coastal Area Management Act guidelines. Please contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 354-3338 or the NC Division of Coastal Management at 808-2808 for more information about sand fencing guidelines.

NC 58 Committee Finalizing Report

The NC 58 Committee has been hard at work outlining their vision for the NC 58 corridor, and is scheduled to present its final report to the Board of Commissioners at the January 14, 2003 Town meeting.

Among the many issues addressed by the NC 58 Committee are desired pedestrian improvements (including sidewalks and bicycle paths), safety improvements (including crosswalks and lower speed limits), and aesthetic improvements (including street vegetation, architectural design, and sign issues). Please plan to attend the January 14 meeting to learn more about the committee's efforts and recommendations.

The committee is led by Chairman Brad Fischer, with assistance from sub-committee chairmen Jerry Huml, Mark Brennessoltz, and Fred Fremaux. Susan Suggs and Ruth Leggett from the NC Division of Community Assistance have provided valuable assistance to the committee. The Town thanks these dedicated individuals and other members of the NC 58 Committee for their hard work on this project.

Update – NC 58 Sidewalk Project

EDA-Morehead, the Town's engineer, is currently working on the design of the NC 58 sidewalk project. The NC 58 sidewalk project scope includes the construction of a new sidewalk along the north side of NC 58 from the Eagles store east to Live Oak Street.

Design work should be completed in January, and the project is expected to go out to bid shortly thereafter. The Town intends to have the project completed before Easter weekend to avoid any disruption during tourist season. Please contact Town Hall for more information.

Beach Cleaner Demonstration

Town officials recently attended a demonstration of a beach cleaner product that may have application in Emerald Isle. The Barber Surf Rake is a motorized device that is pulled by a standard tractor and uses stainless steel tines to collect trash and other large solids from the beach strand. The device may be considered as a tool to remove large shell material from the beach after the nourishment project if necessary. Other towns on Bogue Banks are also considering the utility of this equipment. More information about the Barber Surf Rake is available at www.hbarber.com.

Bogue Banks Towns Meet with new USACE Colonel – Public Access Discussed

Officials from each of the Bogue Banks towns, including Emerald Isle, recently met with Colonel Ray Alexander, the new head of the Wilmington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. The towns welcome Colonel Alexander, and look forward to working with him in the future.

Among other issues, one topic of discussion was public access and parking requirements for federal beach nourishment projects. Emerald Isle, and other towns, will be required to meet federal public beach access and parking guidelines in order to receive federal funding for the long-term (50-year) Shore Protection Project that is currently being pursued for Bogue Banks (tentatively projected to be constructed in 6-10 years; would follow the local project being undertaken this year and next). Federal requirements essentially required access and parking every half-mile along the beach strand to be nourished.

Town staff are in the process of developing a specific plan to meet this requirement, and plan to present a proposal to the Board of Commissioners later this spring or early summer for their consideration.

Merry Christmas / Town Holiday Schedule

The Mayor, Board of Commissioners, Town Manager, and Town staff wish everyone a happy holiday season! All of us in Emerald Isle have much to be thankful for, including the opportunity to live in (permanently or part-time) or frequently visit our wonderful community!

Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, Thursday, December 26, and Friday, December 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Town Hall will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.