

WETLANDS BOARD

MINUTES

June 14, 1989

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Lindsey
Ralph Cobb
Carolyn Lowe
John Hughes
David Gussman

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bernard M. Farmer, Jr., Director of Code Compliance

B. MINUTES

The minutes of the June 14, 1989 meeting were accepted as amended.

C. OLD BUSINESS

None

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. W-15-89 Anna Gillions

Mr. Farmer stated that Mr. Richard Callis, the contractor, has applied on behalf of Ms. Anna Gillions, the owner, for a wetlands permit for the construction of approximately 128 linear feet of timber bulkheading at 121 Branscome Boulevard. In this application, the contractor proposed to construct the bulkhead at mean high water. Mr. Farmer further stated that the staff recommended approval with the following conditions:

1. The bulkhead be staked by the Code Compliance Office above vegetated wetlands.
2. The contractor must obtain a building permit prior to construction.
3. The contractor must contact the Code Compliance Office for an inspection of the filter cloth prior to backfilling.
4. This permit shall expire on June 14, 1990.

Mr. Lindsey asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Farmer stated that the Code Compliance Office did not have the advantage of having the VIMS report prior to the meeting. However, it was available for the meeting and it indicated that 158 square feet of wetlands would be involved if the bulkhead was staked directly at mean high water a difference of 14" horizontal distance to prevent filling of the marsh area. VIMS recommended that the bulkhead be constructed behind the vegetated wetlands.

The Board discussed the amount of marsh at the site and that the bulkhead would be constructed behind the marsh grass.

Mr. Gussman asked the VIMS representative what the chances were for wetlands being wiped out during storm events.

The VIMS representative responded that the area in question was in a no-wake zone and when a bulkhead is built behind fringed wetlands, it is common occurrence that when storms come, the waves come in, hit the bulkhead and erode out the wetlands. However, in Powhatan Shores there was little room to build waves so the chances were slight.

There were no other questions and Mr. Lindsey opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ed Way of 115 Godspeed Lane spoke on behalf of his mother-in-law, Ms. Gillions at 121 Branscome Boulevard. Mr. Way stated that Ms. Gillions' interest was not for the purpose of boating but she was concerned about erosion. With a bulkhead she had hopes of stabilizing her four pine trees because without it like all other banks, her trees would be lost in a few years. Also, there is high boat traffic and there was turbulence created by another bulkhead on the other side of the channel.

Ms. Stephanie Hudgins from Richard Callis, the contractor, commented that the muskrats and the general run off are causing erosion which is why there was a proposal to construct a timber bulkhead behind vegetated wetlands.

Mr. Lindsey closed the public hearing.

Ms. Lowe stated that she did not feel comfortable with building a bulkhead where it was not extremely essential but construction of one more would not make a big difference.

The Board discussed how a lot of citizens are beginning to appreciate wetlands more than before.

Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve the permit with the staff's recommendation.

Mr. Cobb seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

2. W-16-89 Fred Nice

Mr. Farmer stated that Mr. Wilber Jordan, the contractor, had applied on behalf of Mr. Fred Nice, the owner for a wetlands permit for the construction of approximately 60 linear feet of tongue and groove bulkheading at 115 Branscome Boulevard located in the Powhatan Shores Subdivision. The applicant proposed to construct the bulkhead one foot channelward of mean high water. Mr. Farmer further stated that the staff recommended approval with the following conditions:

1. The bulkhead be constructed in alignment at mean high water and tie into the existing bulkheads on adjacent property.
2. The contractor obtains a building permit prior to construction.
3. The contractor must contact the Code Compliance Office for an inspection of the filter cloth prior to backfilling.
4. This permit shall expire on June 14, 1990.

Mr. Lindsey asked if there any questions.

Mr. Farmer read from the VIMS report which stated that the site is a type 11, Fresh Water Mixed, vegetated marsh area. VIMS stated that the impact resulting from the project warns the applicant to take careful consideration while constructing the bulkhead because it would result in a loss of approximately of 160 square feet of fresh water mixed marsh. In order to reduce the loss, VIMS recommended that an alignment be constructed behind the vegetated wetlands. The alignment would be a straight line between two corners of the existing bulkhead.

Mr. Lindsey asked if there were any questions and opened the public hearing.

Mr. Thomas Mahone stated that he uses the waterways and realizes that erosion over time fills them up. He indicated his support of owners protecting their property.

Mr. Lindsey closed the public hearing.

Ms. Lowe made a motion to accept the staff's recommendation.

The motion was carried unanimously.

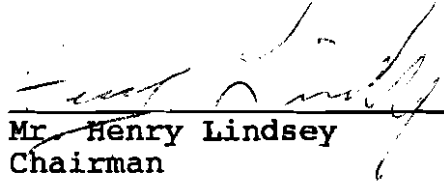
There was no discussion.

E. MATTERS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

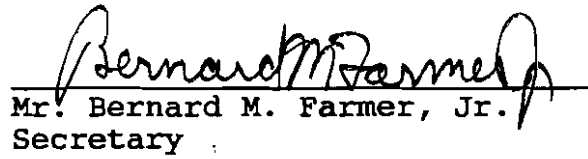
The Board discussed an agreeable date for the boat tour.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



Mr. Henry Lindsey
Chairman



Mr. Bernard M. Farmer, Jr.
Secretary