

CAMA Meeting
Structural Accessway-Location and Construction
February 19, 2020

Mayor Medlin gave an introduction.

Jason Dail, CAMA Field Rep., discussed the changes on the beach in recent years and the material that has been placed on the beach to protect infrastructure and the beach as a natural resource. Based on standing CAMA regulations and past projects this new berm has been determined to be a sand berm and not a frontal dune. There have been many discussions with the district, and it was a final determination that the newly created berm is not a frontal dune. The frontal dune sets the bench mark for development. Past the two of the frontal dune are extremely limited to temporary components that could be placed on the beach. 15A NCAC07H.0308 Specific Use Standards for Ocean Hazard Areas regulate these types of development. Structural accessways may be constructed no more than six feet seaward of the waterward toe of the frontal dune or primary dune, provided they do not interface with public trust rights and emergency access along the beach. Structural accessways are not restricted by the requirement to be landward of the FLSNV as described in 07H.0309(a).

Bob Little asked when the next meeting for a variance would be?

April with a deadline for filing of Friday, February 28th.

Jack Solak asked where Mr. Braxton Davis is today?

Due to the short time frame on the meeting and his busy he could not attend.

Sandi Monroe asked how the tourist are supposed to get to the beach over the new berm.

There is no ruling that prohibits foot traffic over the new berm. There are regulations on development but not foot traffic. Temporary structures may be placed on the berm, but they must be approved by CAMA. Floating stairwells, ladders, and free hanging boards have all been used in the past as temporary measures for beach access.

Tom Monroe public accesses are impacted the same way what is the town's plan for the public accesses.

The town has been waiting on CAMA meeting. The town questioned if they proceeded with a couple design options that are approved by CAMA then maybe the residents could move forward with those same options.

Jason Dail answered that is certainly something we can discuss and encourage.

Joseph DeSalvo requested that CAMA do the outline to how it should be built since these are their regulations. It would save a lot of time.

Tara McPierson, CAMA, stated at this time the CAMA office has not seen anything regarding temporary permitting.

Chris Rackley encouraged the homeowners to create something to get over the dunes to ease the access with the tourist. He asked if these permits are minor CAMA permits.

Jason Dail stated the office would have to see what is proposed. There is no engineering required and the response time will be swift.

Jill Wyles questioned that there are no rules on the new berm. Is the town offering any measurements of protection to keep traffic off of the new berm.

Mayor Medlin stated that there is a town ordinance to keep off the dune but it doesn't apply to the new berm.

Mr. Kyle Breuer, Town Manager stated the town would gather further details on the regulations of the new berm and send those out. The would also facilitate the temporary structures and get a couple options to CAMA to send out for approval. This way we can all move forward with a solution.

Sandi Monroe asked for updated communication of sand fencing on the new berm.

Greg Craft stated he was getting complaints from renters due to the slope of the new berm. He requested a callout or more notification about moving the stairs for nourishment. He asked for more specifics regarding what is going on, on the beach.

Mayor Medlin asked that everyone turn in their design ideas within the next week, so we can get it to CAMA so Mr. Braxton Davis can review the designs. We need to get a move on the designs and implementation for the spring season.

Frontal Dune is defined as the first mound of sand located landward of the ocean beach that has stable and natural vegetation present.

Jeremy Shugarts, Councilman thanked the Mayor for putting the meeting together. He stated there has never had a sand haul of this magnitude. The town is working hard, and we too want our accesses fixed. Everyone is impacted and the town is on overdrive to get these items fixed.

Teresa Batts, Councilman stated that some owners are raking or shoveling sand to make a path to the beach, is this allowed?

Jason Dail stated yes that is allowable.

Neil Rodgers asked that some home needs handi-cap access to the beach who would design these?

Mayor Medlin stated the town cannot construct anymore handi-cap accesses until the stable vegetation line is established. Currently the town has Hatteras ramps at three different locations and a handi-cap access at Roland Ave.

April 18th there will be a Beach Nourishment and Hurricane Preparedness meeting from 9:00am to noon at the Welcome Center.

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