

RICHMOND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2015

The Richmond County Wetlands Board had a meeting on August 27, 2015 in the Public Meeting Room, Warsaw, Virginia.

Wetlands Board Members Present: David Gallagher (Chairman), Greg Gruner (Vice Chairman), Bobby Yeatman, Nancy Finnegan, and Michael Sisson.

Others attending the meeting were: Richard English (Code Compliance Officer), Denise Dunaway (Development Services Manager), and Randy Owen (VMRC).

Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., read the opening statement, and welcomed members and guests.

MINUTES

“On a motion made by Bobby Yeatman, seconded by Greg Gruner, the Board unanimously approved the May 28, 2015 meeting minutes as written.”

PUBLIC HEARING

- Jeff Tomsic et. als. (Wilna Point Community), 2240 Brittany Lane, Powhatan, VA 23139, has applied for permission to construct a community pier along their Farnham Creek shoreline, located at 1208 Little Florida Road and further identified as Tax Map 42A Parcel B. VMRC #15-0970.

Chairman Gallagher read the notice of public hearing.

Chairman Gallagher opened the public hearing. After no public comments, Chairman Gallagher closed the public hearing.

Chairman Gallagher said that several members made a site visit and the project would be constructed in the same footprint as one that existed approximately 5 to 7 years ago.

Mr. Yeatman questioned the answer to a question on the R17 form. Mr. English confirmed that the question was answered incorrectly and he would take care of the change.

Ms. Finnegan asked about the expiration date for the permit. Mr. English responded that one year should suffice.

Mr. English offered the following comments from his staff report:

1. Through review of the proposed project staff believes it would not be unreasonably detrimental to the ecological system of the nearby wetlands should the facility be justified

by the Board. Staff has determined that the projects direct adverse impacts on the marine environment within the Wetlands Board's jurisdiction are expected to be minimal.

2. Staff believes that there will be minimal to no increase in the indirect adverse environmental impacts because of the proposed pier. The use of the community boat launch/landing site may only slightly increase due to the fact that the ramp is already in existence and the proposed new pier is simply for the ease of use in safely aiding individuals in launching and loading their boats. It is Staff's opinion that wildlife disturbance and secondary erosion generated from boat wakes by the proposed use of the new pier should not be a concern.
3. The proposed location of the community pier facility is in staff's opinion the most practical location considering the site's limitations and would create the least amount of impact to the surrounding environment.

“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, seconded by Bobby Yeatman, the Board unanimously voted to approve VMRC application #15-0970, with an expiration date of August 27, 2016.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Finnegan asked about the Shandy Hall breakwater project. Mr. English stated that they have not expressed to him that they are ready to move forward. Ms. Finnegan said she was concerned with the access to the property. She said that they would have to build a road or use Headley Lane, which was not an option with the property owners on Headley Lane.

Mr. English said that VMRC is working on a general permit for living shoreline projects, which can be handled administratively. Mr. English said he would keep the members informed as he receives more information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted as observed,

Richard English
Acting as Secretary

