

**TOWN OF BEAUFORT
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENST
April 27, 2009
MINUTES**

The Town of Beaufort Board of Adjustment held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 27, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Train Depot on 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, North Carolina. Chairman Ralph Merrill presided and those in attendance were as follows:

Members Present:

Ralph Merrill, Chair
Janet Woodward, Vice-Chair
Charles Davis
Pete, Evans, Alternate
Julius McCabe, Alternate

Others:

Kyle Garner, Town Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Merrill called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., and was joined by those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Chairman Merrill asked for a motion for approval of the agenda.

Member Davis moved to approve the agenda as submitted and member Evans seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

Chairman Merrill brought to the attention of the members that minutes for the February meeting were not finished but would be ready for the next meeting and suggested that the board move ahead with regular items of business.

V. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION.

1. A request from the Town of Beaufort for a sign variance to allow the Welcome to Beaufort Sign, at the foot of Grayden Paul Bridge, to be in NCDOT's property and to allow the repainting and raising the center portion of the sign three feet.

Chairman Merrill opened the public hearing for Request from the Town of Beaufort for the variances on the Welcome to Beaufort Sign.

Mr. Garner stated that the board has been supplied a memo with the background information on this application and that based on the current sign ordinance a free standing sign needed to be at least 2 feet out of the Right of Way and that in this case the sign would be in the marsh or environmentally sensitive area. Mr. Garner went on to mention that the NCDOT office in New Bern did not have issues with the sign since it has been on their property for some time and that the District Engineer had even signed the application. In regards to raising the sign, Mr. Garner mentioned that because of the location of the bridge and the sign being in some what of a valley that the 300th beautification Committee thought it would be a good idea to raise the center portion of the sign three feet.

In response to a question from member McCabe, Mr. Garner stated that the variance of four feet was needed because the sign was already two foot over the right-of-way line and that the four feet would allow for the sign to place where it currently sits.

In response to a question from member Evans, Mr. Garner stated that the only portion of the sign to be raised was the center portion and that it would be raised three feet and that Public Works determined that the center portion of the sign could structurally be raised three feet. Also Mr. Garner mentioned that the repainting was so that organizations and civic groups would have the opportunity to repaint and improve their signs, but only their existing signs and not increase the size or change the shape, only repaint and repair.

Being there were no further questions Chairman Merrill closed the public hearing.

DELIBERATION

After limited discussion Member Woodward moved that the board approve the Request from the Town of Beaufort for the Welcome to Beaufort Sign for a four foot encroachment variance and to allow the center portion to be raised three feet as well as to allow the repainting of the existing signs based on the following findings of fact. Member Evans seconded the vote.

1. *The proposed change will not constitute any change in the district boundaries shown on the zoning map;*
2. *The proposed change will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property;*
3. *The proposed change will not materially increase the public danger of fire and safety; and*
4. *The proposed change will not adversely affect the use or physical attributes of property within the surrounding area or in any other respect impair the public health, safety, and general welfare.*
5. *That due to the uniqueness of the lot that if the sign were placed where required the sign would have to be located in a marsh or environmentally sensitive area which would not be reasonable and ;*
6. *That because the sign serves a public use it is in the best interest to have the sign in good repair.*

The vote was unanimous.

V. BOARD COMMENTS.

Chair Merrill and Vice Chair Woodward expressed the desire to have a training session for the Board and asked staff to check if the School of Government at UNC could send someone or to find some material and conduct a workshop with the Boards attorney sometime in the near future. Staff stated that would see what they could do and report back at the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Member Davis moved the Board adjourn. Member Woodward seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote. The meeting concluded at 6:32 PM

Chairman Ralph Merrill

Michele Davis
Town Clerk