

Manteo building permit requests up

By JESSICA H. HORBACH

Manteo has experienced a "little surge" in the number of pending and issued building permits, town inspector Johnny Boniface told the board of commissioners at the Wednesday, July 15 meeting.

Four applications came in last month and three in the first part

of July, related Boniface. This brings the total to seven permits being requested in the last six weeks, he added. Five have been issued, one continues to be pending and a seventh set for an architectural committee review, said the building inspector in a later interview.

Although seven building per-

mits would not have seemed like a big deal a few years ago, in the present economy, it is "excellent news," said town manager Kermit Skinner.

In other business:

- Mayor Jamie Daniels reported ideas about how to best manage runoff at the land intended for a water garden.

Nancy White and Robert McClendon from the UNC Coastal Studies Institute had conveyed that the town should focus on removing sediment before the water drains into Shallowbag Bay, said Daniels.

Runoff could be pumped to a retention area where the sediment would settle on the bottom, continued the mayor. From there, the water would be pumped back to the water garden where the vegetation planted there would filter bacteria before the runoff went into the bay.

The recommendations the two made will be taken to an engi-

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neer to be added to the water garden plans, concluded Daniels.

Also on the topic of the park, town planner Erin Trebisacci reported that she had received a lot of calls about the construction contract for the park. "There's a lot of interest."

- The commissioners agreed to task the planning board with reviewing regulations for accessory dwellings compared to accessory units.

The set back requirements are different for the two different uses, related Trebisacci. However, said Daniels, the differences between the definitions are slight — an accessory dwelling has a stove top while a unit does not.

If someone builds a unit under those regulations, then adds a stove over the weekend, the town may not be aware of the change in use, said Trebisacci.

- Staffer Nathan Pharr reported on various items related to the waste water treatment plant.

While those repairs are ongoing, Pharr said he did not expect any water outages but was unsure of what it would take to fix the leaks until after the work had started.

The Bowsertown lift that had suffered some damage about a month ago is back up and running, said Pharr.

As to the original plan to fix the Sir Walter Raleigh leaks before July 4, the plan was delayed by the unexpected Bowsertown issues, related Skinner.