

January 26, 2012

**Press Release: From the Office of the Town of Oriental Mayor for immediate release.**

A proposal to donate property on Raccoon Creek to the Town of Oriental has been made by Chris Fulcher who owns or controls much of the point along the Neuse River and Raccoon Creek. Mr. Fulcher has recently acquired the property formerly owned by Lacy and Judy Henry on the point and now owns the properties on both sides of Avenue A and the western terminus of South Avenue in Oriental. The South Avenue right of way was the subject of protracted litigation between the Henrys and the Town over ownership. The litigation was resolved in favor of the Town in 2009.

Oriental Mayor Bill Sage said, “We are very pleased to have received this proposal from Chris Fulcher. Much credit goes to Town Manager Bob Maxbauer for cultivating cordial relations among the Town, the Fulchers and the Henrys. Bob has been tireless in his efforts on behalf of Oriental since joining us as Interim Manager in November 2010 and full time Manager in May 2011.” Mayor Sage also indicated that the Board would likely hold public sessions seeking to elicit public input into the consideration of the proposal.

The proposal would entail the closing of the end of South Avenue and all of Avenue A and the conveyance to the Town of a lot on the creek adjacent to the Toucan Grill restaurant location. The lot includes a recently installed commercial-quality bulkhead and a nearly completed pier into Raccoon Creek with all CAMA permits. The creek area has been recently fully dredged. The proposal would also give to the Town the small buildings located partially on and near the lot, including the historic boathouse structure featured in the Oriental Centennial book “At Home in Oriental—An Architectural History.”

The proposal is available for inspection at Oriental townhall according to Manager Maxbauer. The Town Board will take up the matter at its February 7 Board Meeting at which public input will be welcomed.