

Pine Knoll Shores
7/11/2008

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE VITEX ROTUNDIFOLIA ("BEACH VITEX") A
PUBLIC NUISANCE

WHEREAS, the beach strand in Pine Knoll Shores represents one of its most valuable natural resources, providing means for public recreation, attraction of tourists and other visitors, and providing a major boost to the area economy; and

WHEREAS, there are three known species on the Federal Endangered List (loggerhead sea turtles, piping plovers, and seabeach amaranth), which are severely threatened by Vitex Rotundifolia, hereinafter referred to as "Beach Vitex"; and

→ WHEREAS, there are other species including, but not limited to, Seaots, Bitter Panicum, Seashore Elder, and American Beachgrass that are severely threatened by the invasive growth of Beach Vitex; and

WHEREAS, Beach Vitex destroys plants which protect our dunes, and further, Beach Vitex provides little, if any, protection for dunes, therefore significantly increasing the likelihood of damage to the dunes, the beaches, and, therefore, local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Beach Vitex, a plant species that is not native to this country, much less Pine Knoll Shores, has been found growing in places within Town, including the beach area; and

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WHEREAS, the spreading and persistence of Beach Vitex has the potential to cause significant harm to native species;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores as follows:

I.

A new Section 3-12 is added to Chapter III of the Pine Knoll Municipal Code as follows:

Section 3-12. VITEX ROTUNDIFOLIA PROHIBITED.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to introduce, plant, or maintain Vitex Rotundifolia ("Beach Vitex") in Pine Knoll Shores.
- (b) The owner of any property containing Beach Vitex is encouraged to take all appropriate action to eradicate the plant. Under no circumstances shall property owners allow Beach Vitex to spread to adjacent properties or seaward of the first line of stable vegetation near the ocean beach.
- (c) Property owners are required to remove Beach Vitex seaward of the first line of stable vegetation within thirty (30) days of notice from the Town.
- (d) Eradication of Beach Vitex shall be in accordance with best agricultural practices as recommended by North Carolina State University, or a comparable agency.

(E) Pine Knoll Shores will advise private land owners in the eradication of Beach Vitex on their property but reserves the right to proceed with eradication even over the objection of property owners.

II.

This ordinance is effective upon adoption.

Enacted on motion of Commissioner Bonnie Jean Peter, seconded by Commissioner Robert M. Danahy and carried on a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

This the 11th day of July, 2006.

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES

By: Joan E. Lamson
Mayor

Attest:

Ronda J. Lambert
Town Clerk