



NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

July 1, 2009

P.O.R.T.S. Contest

NoPort Southport NC, Inc., announced the results of the *Public Options Regarding Terminal Site* contest on June 25 at the Southport Community Building.

The organization conceived the contest to demonstrate the range of alternate uses available for the 600-acre site on the Cape Fear River intended to be despoiled by the NC State Ports Authority for a container terminal. Entrants were asked to propose environmentally sensitive, yet economically effective uses for this undisturbed meadow, woodland and salt marsh. A panel of independent judges was enlisted to score the results, using a points system giving consideration to economic and environmental characteristics. Judges for the contest were Douglas C. Burns, AIA, principal in charge of Perkins-Eastman Architects, Cynthia Tart, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Brunswick County, Inc., and Curtis Wright, radio personality and talk show host for The Big Talker on 93.7 FM.

First prize went to Frank Bausch of Caswell Beach for his “Southport Energy Park,” a state park showcasing seven renewable energy production and storage technologies in seven individual sites. The next-ranking entry, from Robert Mark Santi of Southport, also focused on renewable energy, with emphasis on production from small-scale sources.

Third prize was earned by Richard and Kimberly Bandera of Southport, with a well-developed concept of an oceanographic institute, much like that of Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Other entries, coming from as far as Texas, New York, and Connecticut, included a marine and littoral education and research center, a cancer medical center, shrimp production center, a park with camp sites, zoo and exhibit center, a technology park with a training center, a cultural center with outdoor theater, and a variety of educational, recreational and learning centers.

The North Carolina State Ports Authority continues publicly to insist that a container terminal is the best use of the Southport site. But by the measures used in this contest, a container terminal would rank a distant last, earning no points at all in the environmental and economic categories. Although the sole rationale for the North Carolina International Terminal now appears to be as a vanity project for the State Ports Authority, even that category, if we had one, would be empty of points for the terminal because prestige does not come from conspicuous waste of economic and environmental resources.

Call for Volunteers

We have been reminded that the lower Cape Fear has many sites of historical and archeological interest that would be put at risk by a new channel for the container terminal. Anyone wishing to help us catalog those for presentation to the Corps of Engineers in connection with its reconnaissance study, please contact editor@noportsouthport.org

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