

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
AUGUST 26, 2010**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:32 p.m., Thursday, August 26, 2010, in the Watauga County Library Conference Room, 140 Queen Street. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Stephen Phillips, Rennie Brantz, Andy Ball, and Jamie Leigh. Municipal Service District (MSD) Special Task Force members present were Marsha Walpole, Ethel Simpson, Jill Reeves, Andy Stallings, and Nancy Rivenbark. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young, Deputy Town Clerk Kim Brown, and Finance Director Amy Davis. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was present. Mary Baker, Executive Director of the Downtown Boone Development Association (DBDA), was also in attendance.

The meeting was facilitated by Janet P. Pepin, Pepin & Associates. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

DISCUSSION OF OUTCOME OF TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Ms. Pepin began by asking all task force members to voice what they wish to achieve through this meeting process. Task Force Member Walpole voiced her desire to see the downtown area become strong and vibrant. Council Member Ball stated that he would like to achieve a clear accounting of how the MSD funds have been spent and how private funding has been used. Task Member Simpson stated she is interested in helping to move forward with downtown issues and to achieve an agreed-upon outcome. Council Member Leigh indicated that she would like see determined what is the best entity suited to administer the MSD funds and to set an action plan. Council Member Phillips stated that it is important to him to achieve better cooperation between the Town and the downtown property owners and merchants in working toward mutual goals. Task Force Member Reeves stated that she wishes to see the downtown become a charming, quaint tourism destination with emphasis on beautification, parking, and better signage. Council Member Mason stated that she would like to see Boone's Main Street Program become the best in the state and to be built through partnership, economic development, and improved infrastructure. Task Force Member Stallings voiced a desire to better understand the issues that brought about the need for the task force. Furthermore, he stated that he would like to see the MSD funds used as intended: for the benefit of the downtown. Council Member Brantz indicated that he would like to see a redefined vision for the relationship between the Town and the downtown. He pointed out that this would include education for all involved. Task Force Member Rivenbark stated that she would like to see increased involvement in downtown issues from service providers and business owners. She noted that parking and infrastructure needs for the downtown area need to be addressed. Mayor Clawson expressed a desire to determine the best use of MSD funds and the entity best suited for the administration of those funds. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele pointed out that the MSD funds must be expended in accordance with state law. Ms. Pepin suggested that all pertinent documentation be presented to each member of the group so that an informed discussion can ensue. The following list of supplemental information was requested by the group:

- § a copy of the final resolution, as adopted by the Town Council, in regard to the make-up and duties of the MSD Special Task Force
- § a copy of the survey /summary report recently distributed by the Town to the downtown businesses and property owners
- § a copy of the DBDA charter
- § a copy of N.C. State Statutes regarding the Municipal Service District tax
- § a copy of the Main Street Program guidelines/requirements
- § a copy of the last ten years of expenditures for the MSD tax funds
- § a map of the MSD boundaries and list of property owners.

Ms. Pepin stated that she would distribute the requested materials to the task force prior to the next scheduled meeting.

SCHEDULING OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the task force to schedule the following meeting

dates and to limit meetings to a three-hour time period:

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 - 5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 27, 2010 - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 - 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Pepin explained the steps to be used in achieving the desired outcome of the group:

1. Educating the task force and defining problems.
2. Developing a “wish-list” of criteria.
3. Examining all solutions which meet the criteria.
4. Voting on recommendations to forward to the Town Council in November.

It was agreed upon by the task force that the first item on the next meeting agenda will be for the Town Council to clarify what constitutes a 75% vote of the task force and to appoint an eastside representative to fill the remaining position on the task force.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items for consideration, Mayor Clawson adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor