

**MINUTES – BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road in Boone. Mayor Dalton George presided. Council members present included Mayor Pro-Tem Todd Carter, Adrian Tait, Anne Pruitt, and Virginia Roseman. Staff members present included Interim Town Manager/Human Resources Director Dale Presnell, Planning Director Jane Shook, Deputy Planning Director Brandon Wise, Administrative Coordinator Brenda Henson, Commercial Zoning Administrator Amy Snider, Advanced Planning Specialist Jessica Mitchell, Major Shane Robbins, Public Works Director Todd Moody, Downtown Boone Development Director Lane Moody, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci, Finance Director Guy Miller, and Town Attorney Allison Meade.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A brief moment of silence was observed.

**CONTINUATION OF MARCH 23, 2026, PUBLIC HEARING & PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING: CASE A26-0067 HEMLOCK RIDGE TRACE APARTMENTS CONDITIONAL
DISTRICT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT**

The Town Council recessed at 9:20 a.m. to continue the March 23, 2026, Public Hearing & Planning Commission meeting. Council reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor George announced the following board vacancies:

ABC BOARD

One regular position

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Two alternate positions

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Two regular positions

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Two regular positions

PLANNING COMMISSION

Two regular positions

TOWN COUNCIL

One position

TENTATIVE AGENDA ADOPTION

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Carter, seconded by Councilmember Roseman, Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mayor George read the following proclamation into the record:

**PROCLAMATION HONORING PUBLIC POWER LINEWORKERS DURING LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION DAYS**

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, the 115th Congress of the United States adopted House Resolution 10 recognizing the profession of lineworkers, the contributions these brave men and women make to protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2015, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified House Bill 140, which designates the second Monday in April of each year as Lineworker Appreciation Day in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS the Town Council of Boone celebrates the profession of electric lineworkers and wishes to honor them for their exemplary service to the Town and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, lineworkers are often first responders during storms, working to repair broken and damaged electric lines under hazardous conditions to make the area safe for other public safety heroes; and

WHEREAS, lineworkers play a vital role in the lives of our citizens by maintaining and growing our electrical infrastructure, putting their lives on the line every day by working with the dangers of high voltage and ensuring they provide safe, reliable energy; and

WHEREAS, the lineworkers of New River Light and Power’s electric utility and their example of service above self are deserving of the respect, admiration, and appreciation of all the citizens of the Town of Boone; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Boone, North Carolina, joins all N.C. public power communities and all public power systems in the United States in these celebrations of Lineworker Appreciation Days.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2026.

The Honorable Dalton George, Mayor

Attest:

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Angie Kornhauser of Boone expressed appreciation to the Council for its support of the recent “No Kings” event held on King Street. She reported that approximately 2,000 individuals attended and noted that the Police Department made significant efforts to ensure the safety of all participants. Mayor George commended Town public safety personnel for their work during the event.

REQUESTED APPEARANCES

Dr. Patricia Mitchell – Town Manager Search Update

Dr. Mitchell reported that 20 applications had been received to date, along with one incomplete application. She noted that the applicant pool included both in-state and out-of-state candidates, with 11 from North Carolina and 9 from outside the state. Dr. Mitchell stated that the position would remain open until May 5, 2026, and that she would provide guidance to Council on when to begin reviewing candidates in early May.

Mayor George stated that he had received multiple direct inquiries regarding the position and indicated that he had directed all individuals to follow the established application process. Dr. Mitchell confirmed that this was the appropriate response and advised that Council members should not engage directly with applicants, noting that any inquiries could be referred to her.

Ms. Meade inquired about best practices related to anonymizing the initial review of candidates. Dr. Mitchell responded that she intended to develop a spreadsheet outlining qualifications, including education and experience, and to remove identifying information prior to presenting the information to Council. She recommended that Council initially narrow the pool to seven candidates for virtual interviews, then to five candidates, and ultimately to three finalists for in-person interviews. Mayor George confirmed that the Council would serve as the interview committee for the position.

Downtown Boone Development Association Update

Downtown Boone Development Association Director Lane Moody gave the yearly Downtown Boone Development Association report.

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Carter, seconded by Councilmember Tait, Council voted unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Resolution – Town of Boone Logo
2. Revisions to Chapter 36 – Town Logo
3. Request for Road Closures & Open Containers for Boonerang Music & Arts Festival
4. Town of Boone 1872 Award Information

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL LOGO AND SEAL OF THE TOWN OF BOONE

WHEREAS, the Town of Boone has historically utilized various logos and seals to represent the municipality in official, promotional, and operational capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Boone Town Council recognizes the importance of maintaining a consistent, modern, and recognizable visual identity that reflects the Town's character, heritage, and strategic vision; and

WHEREAS, with the help of grant funding, the Town has undertaken a comprehensive branding initiative to develop an updated official logo and seal that better represent the community and its values; and

WHEREAS, the Boone Town Council finds it to be in the best interest of the Town to formally adopt a single official logo and single official seal for all municipal purposes and to eliminate confusion arising from the continued use of outdated or unofficial marks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Boone Town Council that:

1. Adoption of Official Logo and Seal: The Boone Town Council hereby adopts new Town of Boone logos and official seal, as presented and attached hereto as Exhibit A, to serve as official visual identifiers of the Town.
2. Exclusive Use: The adopted logo and seal shall be used for all official Town purposes, including but not limited to correspondence, signage, digital platforms, uniforms, vehicles, publications, and legal documents, unless otherwise authorized by the Town Manager.
3. Implementation: The Town Manager, or their designee, is authorized to implement this Resolution, including the phased replacement of prior logos and seals on Town property, materials, and systems, as practicable and fiscally responsible.
4. Effective Date: This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Town Clerk

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EXHIBIT A

CHAPTER 36: TOWN LOGO and SEAL

Section

36.01 Town logo and seal designated

36.02 Use of town logo and seal

36.99 Penalty

§ 36.01 TOWN LOGO AND SEAL DESIGNATED.

~~The following is the The official logo logos and seal for the town shall be formally adopted by the Town Council by Resolution.:~~



(Ord. passed 12-14-2010; Ord. passed --)

§ 36.02 USE OF TOWN LOGO AND TOWN SEAL.

~~(A) – (A)~~ Use of town logo

1. ~~B~~by employees of the town. Any employee of the town is authorized to reproduce the town logo on letterhead, agendas, minutes of meetings, brochures, electronic communication and other forms of communication used for official correspondence or communication by an employee on behalf of the town. A department head may authorize the reproduction of the town's logo on

equipment which is owned or being purchased by the town and on signs identifying real and personal property of the town. Any other use of the town logo by a town employee or department head must be approved by the Town Manager or Town Council. No employee may authorize any other person to reproduce the town's logo without the express authorization of the Town Manager.

2. ~~-(B)-~~ Authorization by Town Manager. Except for those matters expressly reserved to the Town Council, the Town Manager may authorize the reproduction and display of the town logo, including, but not limited to, clothing and other items for distribution by the town to town employees or other persons.
3. ~~-(C)-~~ Use as part of a publication, design or other item in which another person or entity claims intellectual property rights. Except pursuant to the express approval by the Town Council, the town's logo may not be used or reproduced in any publication, design or other item in which another person or entity claims intellectual property rights. Furthermore, even with Town Council approval, it is the policy of the town that no person may reserve or claim intellectual property rights in any publication, design or other item which includes or incorporates the town's logo unless the town is simultaneously licensed for the unlimited reproduction of the publication, design or other item without any further approval required.
4. ~~-(D)-~~ Reproduction of town logo by third persons. Unless explicitly authorized by the town, a person who is not authorized hereunder to reproduce the town's logo may not do so. The town expressly reserves all rights to its logo.
5. ~~-(E)-~~ Use of town logo in signs. No person or entity may include the town's logo in a sign, as that term is defined in the town's Unified Development Ordinance, Art. 18, without action by the Town Council approving the use.

(B) Use of Town Seal: The Town Seal may be used only on official town documents and with the approval of the Town Clerk.

(Ord. passed 12-14-2010)

§ 36.99 PENALTY.

The general penalty provisions of § 10.99 of this code apply to any violation of this chapter. In addition, the town is authorized to take all necessary action to protect its logo and seal, including, but not limited to, the initiation of a civil action and pursuit of an injunction to prohibit or stop ~~the~~ unauthorized display, reproduction or other use ~~of the town's logo~~. Should the town initiate a civil action ~~to protect its logo hereunder~~, it shall be entitled to recover its court costs, including attorney's fees against a person or entity who has improperly displayed, reproduced or used the town's logo or seal.

Ms. Meade stated that adoption of the code amendment would eliminate the need to amend the ordinance each time the logo or seal is modified in the future.

Mayor George acknowledged that implementation of the new logo across the Town would involve costs, but indicated that staff would transition to the new logo incrementally as practicable rather than all at once. Ms. Meade noted that the proposed code amendment allows for the continued use of the existing logo until replacements can be made in a reasonable manner. Mayor Pro-Tem Carter stated that the rollout of the new logo would be discussed further at the May budget retreat.

PLANNING MATTERS

Consideration of Text Amendment Regarding Public Art (Murals) in the Downtown Boone Local Historic District

Advanced Planning Specialist Jessica Mitchell presented proposed revisions to the public art standards within the UDO. She noted that the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the proposed text at its April 7, 2026, meeting and that staff anticipated presenting the revisions at the April 27, 2026, public hearing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Carter inquired whether the proposed anti-graffiti coating would comply with historic preservation standards. Ms. Mitchell stated that she would consult with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office to confirm compliance.

Walk-Audit Update

Planning Director Shook provided an update on a proposed community walk audit to evaluate walkability in selected areas of Town. She noted that the most recent walk audit was conducted in 2019. Ms. Shook stated that Planning and Inspections staff could conduct the audit in the fall and, after compiling the data in a web-based mapping application, provide the information to Public Works Director Todd Moody for future reference and use.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Request to Schedule Park Tours

It was the consensus of Council to schedule a special meeting to allow members to tour Town parks, including Daniel Boone Park, Jaycee Park, North Street Park, and the Bolick Property on Friday, May 15, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding with Watauga County Historical Society Regarding the Town's Support of the Digital Watauga Project

Ms. Meade presented a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and outlined potential options for supporting Digital Watauga and the Watauga County Historical Society. She advised that providing office space to a historical organization is permissible under state statute and that surplus personal property may also be conveyed without issue. However, she cautioned against the Town administering payroll for a third-party organization due to liability concerns and lack of statutory authority. Ms. Meade further explained that direct employment of Digital Watauga staff by the Town would only be permissible if the position were tied specifically to historic preservation regulatory functions, such as support for the Historic Preservation Commission or landmark designation processes. As an alternative, she noted that under GS §157-437 the Historical Society could submit a formal resolution requesting funding, which Council could consider as a direct appropriation conditioned on statutorily-required reporting requirements.

Council members expressed general support for the organization and its work, while emphasizing the need to clearly define the Town's role and legal authority. Discussion included concerns related to liability, insurance coverage, and the appropriateness of assigning Town staff as a liaison, with some members noting that such involvement could exceed the originally anticipated scope. It was also noted that Digital Watauga is losing its current space at the library and has an immediate need for office space.

Council members generally agreed that payroll and staffing considerations should not be addressed at this time and should instead be considered as part of broader budget discussions. Members indicated that any potential funding or staffing support should be evaluated alongside other municipal priorities, particularly given current budget constraints and anticipated capital needs. Discussion also included the regional nature of Digital Watauga's services and the potential for shared funding among other local governments, including Watauga County and neighboring municipalities.

With respect to the MOU, Council members expressed a preference to proceed with a limited agreement focused on the provision of office space and basic liability protections, deferring consideration of funding, staffing, and long-term support. Staff was directed to

revise the MOU accordingly and to engage further with the Historical Society regarding the potential submission of a funding request, if desired. Council member Anne Pruitt and Mayor Pro-Tem Carter also indicated interest in discussing the matter with regional partners at an upcoming mayor-manager meeting.

Next, Council members discussed position needs for the upcoming budget year. Mayor George suggested that the Historian position be deferred to the next budget cycle. Mayor Pro-Tem Carter and Councilmember Pruitt concurred, with Mayor Pro-Tem Carter indicating a priority for communications and IT needs. Councilmember Roseman suggested consideration of funding a single Historian position on a trial basis.

Mayor George summarized Council consensus that the MOU be revised to reflect a limited, interim agreement focused on space utilization and basic protections, while leaving broader partnership considerations for future evaluation. Ms. Meade agreed to revise the MOU accordingly and noted the inclusion of a 60-day notice provision.

Council members briefly discussed the Outside Agency Funding process, including evaluation criteria and scoring. Members noted that recent revisions have provided additional structure and improved compliance with statutory requirements, but expressed interest in further refinement and the potential for a dedicated work session.

Councilmember Tait moved to amend the agenda to include a discussion of fencing at Daniel Boone Native Gardens. Mayor Pro-Tem Carter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor George reported that the Daniel Boone Native Gardens require approximately \$6,000 for chain-link fencing to deter deer. Mayor Pro-Tem Carter and Councilmembers Tait and Pruitt expressed support for directing Rebecca Hutchins to proceed with ordering the fencing, with funding to be discussed further at the May budget retreat.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor George gave updates on the following topics:

- Garlic mustard pull at Rivers House
- Will not be in attendance at the April 22 Town Council meeting due to a work commitment

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Interim Town Manager Dale Presnell gave updates on the following topics:

- Announced Boone Clean-up Day on April 18
- 12 parking spaces have been implemented at the Rivers House
- Announced the upcoming Earth Third Friday event at the Rivers House on April 17 to include a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the New River State Park Trail
- Update on funding for new Public Works facility, including the potential use of an agency to help acquire funding sources.
- Parking Manager Reta Jackson reported that she will be meeting with the County Manager to discuss parking spaces on Queen Street and at the library. She also noted that she is exploring options to recover unpaid parking fines and will be meeting with staff the following week to discuss potential approaches.

TOWN ATTORNEY UPDATE

Town Attorney Allison Meade updated Council members on the following topics:

- One or more settlement payments arising from the Town's involvement in the PFAS MDL litigation in South Carolina federal court will soon be made to the Town.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Pruitt referenced the Downtown Boone Development Association report given earlier in the meeting for her report.

Councilmember Roseman indicated that the Cultural Resource Advisory Board would meet in May and noted a documentary on Boone. She announced that she would not be able to attend the upcoming Watauga County Parks and Recreation meeting. For the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Councilmember Roseman stated that restrooms would be completed in May. She also announced that the Stoneman's Raid marker unveiling would take place on the 21st for her Historic Preservation Commission report.

Mayor Pro-Tem Carter reported on the AppalCart board that NCDOT approved trading in the grant for an E-bus for a second double-decker bus. He added that AppalCart was requesting an increase in funding to support increased routes to East Boone. Mayor Pro-Tem Carter stated that the TDA did not meet last month. For the Human Relations

Commission, Mayor Pro-Tem Carter announced that the Fair Housing Summit would take place on April 19 from 12-4 p.m. at the Agricultural Center.

Councilmember Tait reported that the EDC and Community Partners' group would meet next week.

Mayor George adjourned the meeting without objection at 11:35 a.m.

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Dalton George, Mayor