

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
December 13, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 in the Boone Town Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road in Boone. Mayor Tim Futrelle presided. Town Council members present included Mayor Pro-Tem Edie Tugman, Todd Carter, Virginia Roseman, Becca Nenow, and Dalton George (remote). Staff present included Town Manager Amy Davis, Town Clerk Nicole Harmon-Church, Public Works Director Todd Moody, Police Chief Andy Le Beau, Interim Grants Coordinator Laney Wise, Environmental Planner Brandon Wise, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager George Santucci, Finance Director Guy Miller, and Human Resources Director Dale Presnell. Council Member-elect Dr. Eric Plaag and Town Attorney Allison Meade were also in attendance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers were signed up for the public comment period.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ADOPTION

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

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Town Clerk Nicole Harmon-Church presided over the oath/affirmation ceremonies for Council members Edie Tugman and Eric Plaag. Official oaths precede these minutes. Council member George will be affirmed at a later date due to his inability to attend the meeting in person.

SEATING OF TOWN COUNCIL

The newly-elected Council members took their seats to move forward with the remainder of the organizational meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Council Member Roseman nominated Dalton George to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore. She stated that Council Member Tugman was one of the best Mayors Pro-Tem that she had ever worked with and that she had served honorably. Hearing no further nominations, Mayor Futrelle called for a vote.

VOTE:	Aye:	Roseman, Carter, Tugman, Plaag
	Nay:	None
	Abstain:	George

Council Member George thanked his fellow Council Members for giving him the chance to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.

SWEARING-IN OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

It was noted that since Mayor Pro-Tempore George was unable to attend the meeting in person, his oath/affirmation ceremony would take place at a later date.

COUNCIL MATTERS

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION - R. NENOW

Upon a motion by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Plaag, Council voted unanimously to approve the resolution of appreciation for former Council Member Becca Nenow.

SERVICE APPRECIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Rebecca (Becca) Nenow has served this community well in numerous capacities during her two years as Council Member; and,

WHEREAS, Becca was compelled to serve the Town as a Boone native, former Watauga High School student, and member of the community who wanted to see environmental action and the protection of the natural spaces that contribute to Boone; and,

WHEREAS, Becca chose to run and serve during a time marking many significant achievements and challenges related to the Town of Boone. Meeting all of them with a calm and measured voice; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has benefited greatly because of her particular interest and work in the areas of the Sustainability Committee, Parks and Recreation Board, and the DBDA; and,

WHEREAS, Becca worked tirelessly to see the expansion of trails and parks, as well as the implementation of municipal practices benefiting sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, through the performance of her duties and responsibilities as a member of the Town Council, she has made excellent and constructive contributions to municipal government in our Town; and,

WHEREAS, while her service on the Town Council is coming to an end, the perspectives, policies, and personal investment Becca gave to the Town will serve to steer its future course; and,

WHEREAS, she has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom she has come into contact and the affection of her fellow public servants, who are proud to call her a friend; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council for the Town of Boone does hereby express our sincere appreciation and thanks, as well as that of our citizens to Rebecca Nenow for her distinguished service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be given to Rebecca Nenow with sincere best wishes for continued success and many happy years ahead.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Town Council on the 13th day of December 2023.

Mayor Tim Futrelle

ATTEST:

_____(SEAL)
Nicole Harmon-Church, Clerk

Council Member Carter stated his opinion that Boone needed more young perspective and needed to make it so that young people could afford to do the job of Council person. He added that he wanted to see change in the political landscape so that young people could do this and make a living while putting their passions to work. Council Member Roseman stated that it was a pleasure to get to know former Council Member Nenow, and that she admired her passion. It was her hope that Ms. Nenow would continue to serve the Town of Boone on one of its boards or committees. Council Member Tugman echoed other member's sentiments and added that she treasured Ms. Nenow's thought process and quiet, steady voice. Council Member George agreed, and stated that getting to know Ms. Nenow and call her a friend has been a highlight of his career. He added that he was grateful for her leadership and the time and work that she put in while serving on the Boone Town Council. Council Member Plaag echoed what other members said and hoped that Ms. Nenow would consider continued service on one of the Town's boards. He added that Ms. Nenow brought a valuable perspective and agreed that

having younger people participate was vitally important to the Town. Mayor Futrelle finished by stating that he admired Ms. Nenow's strong silence and wisdom.

CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

In response to a question raised by Council Member Plaag, Mayor Futrelle indicated that he anticipated the return of Council work sessions during the daytime business meeting. Upon a motion by Council Member Tugman, seconded by Council Member Carter, Council voted to approve the annual meeting notice as presented.

VOTE: Aye: Tugman, Carter, Roseman, Plaag
 Nay: None
 Abstain: George

Council Member Roseman made a motion to amend the agenda to include an item of discussion and action regarding Council liaison assignments. Council Member Plaag seconded this motion.

VOTE: Aye: Tugman, Carter, Roseman, Plaag
 Nay: None
 Abstain: George

Mayor Futrelle read the board liaison assignments for himself: High Country COG Advisory Committee, High Country COG Rural Planning Commission, High Country RPO RTAC, Boone Tourism Development Authority, and Watauga Economic Development Commission.

It was noted that a nomination and vote was needed for this position, so Council Member Carter nominated Mayor Futrelle to serve as liaison to the High Country RPO RTAC.

Mayor Futrelle then asked for a vote:

VOTE: Aye: Tugman, Carter, Roseman, Plaag
 Nay: None
 Abstain: George

Mayor Futrelle then read the remaining appointments for Town Council. Upon being appointed to serve as liaison to the Human Relations Commission, Council Member George asked Council Member Roseman whether it was alright with her that he accepted this appointment. Council Member Roseman stated that she believed Council Member George would do an excellent job in this appointment, and felt that he was more suited and proficient in preparing resolutions and other documents. She indicated that she relinquished her position on the Human Relations Commission to Council Member George, and hoped that he could help them move forward in a positive direction.

Member	Board/Commission
Tim Futrelle	• High Country COG Advisory Committee • High Country COG Rural Planning Commission • High Country RPO RTAC • Boone Tourism Development Authority • Watauga Economic Development

	Commission
Edie Tugman	• Cultural Resources Advisory Committee • Downtown Boone Development Authority • Water Committee
Dalton George	• Sustainability Committee • Human Relations Committee • ABC Board • Fair Housing Task Force
Todd Carter	• AppalCART Board • Human Relations Commission
Virginia Roseman	• Historic Preservation Commission • Southern Appalachian Historical Association • Watauga County Parks & Recreation Board
Eric Plaag	• Downtown Boone Development Association • Sustainability Committee • Cultural Resources Advisory Board

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Plaag, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

VOTE: Aye: Tugman, Carter, Roseman, Plaag
 Nay: None
 Abstain: George

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Tim Futrelle, Mayor