

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:09 p.m., Monday, September 28, 2009, in the Powers Room South, Broyhill Inn & Conference Center, ASU. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Janet Pepin, Rennie Brantz, Jamie Leigh, and Stephen Phillips. Staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Kimberly Brown-Deputy Town Clerk, Jim Byrne-Assistant to the Manager, and Blake Brown-Public Works Director. Town Attorney Sam Furguele was also present. Elected officials and staff from the following entities were also present: Appalachian State University, Watauga County, Town of Blowing Rock, Town of Seven Devils, Town of Beech Mountain, and the various media outlets of the area.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold an intergovernmental retreat to discuss healthcare and recreation issues.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN WATAUGA COUNTY

Appalachian Regional Healthcare System - Richard Sparks, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Hermon Godwin, Chief Medical Officer, of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, presented information regarding the organization which includes the Watauga Medical Center, Blowing Rock Hospital, and Charles Cannon, Jr. Memorial Hospital. He noted that many doctors are part of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare System. Mr. Sparks informed the group of plans to build a new facility at the site of the Blowing Rock Hospital.

Appalachian State University Nursing Program - Dr. Lorin Baumhover presented an update on the nursing program. He noted that the program has produced 60 graduates to date. Dr. Baumhover indicated that it is the intent of the university to create a “stand-alone” BSN Program. In regard to the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Baumhover stated that ASU has received approval from the Board of Governors to begin the program and is proceeding with appointing a founding Dean of the program by the fall of the year 2010. He stated that this process has been affected by a reduction in funding and the economic condition of the past year. Dr. Greg Lovins informed the group of the status of the project located adjacent to the Watauga Medical Center. He explained that the project is in the preliminary planning stages. Dr. Lovins also stated that the project is being studied by a committee composed of university personnel.

Watauga County Commission Chair Jim Deal asked how each of the surrounding entities can help regarding the healthcare issue. Mr. Sparks answered by stating that continued involvement, advocacy, and a willingness to be open to public input are the main ways each local government can help. Chairman Deal also requested that contact information be supplied so that each entity can voice its support for the new Blowing Rock Hospital project.

RECREATION PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Watauga County - Eric Woolridge, Recreation Planner, Watauga TDA

Mr. Woolridge informed the group of various outdoor recreational opportunities within Watauga County, including hiking, mountain biking, and paddling.

Town of Boone - Blake Brown, Director of Public Works

Mr. Brown presented information on the Town of Boone’s many parks and the Greenway Trail system. He informed the group of future plans to extend the Greenway Trail system and of the upcoming completion of the Clawson-Burnley Park.

Town of Blowing Rock - Scott Hildebran, Town Manager

Mr. Hildebran updated the group on the swimming pool replacement project at the Blowing Rock Park. He noted that the project includes a new deck area and restroom facilities.

Town of Seven Devils - Ed Evans, Town Manager

Mr. Evans presented information on the Town of Seven Devils’s recreation areas including the Bear-Claw State Natural Area and various walking routes and hiking trails. He noted that the Town recently purchased and renovated two tennis courts for its citizens. Due to the size of the

town and the current economic conditions, Mr. Evans stated that the citizens of Seven Devils are able to utilize recreational opportunities provided by private organizations such as snow tubing and the zipline at the Hawks Nest resort.

Town of Beech Mountain - Eric Jelinski, Recreation Director

Mr. Jelinski presented information on recreation in the Town of Beech Mountain, including information about the Buckeye Lake Recreation Area. He noted that hiking and the use of the sledding hill behind the Beech Mountain Town Hall are popular recreational activities.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor