

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MAY 10, 2016

A regular meeting of the Town of Boone Transportation Committee was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, 2016. The meeting was held at the Watauga County: Cooperative Extension, 971 West King Street and was conducted by Chairperson Craig Scheffler.

Committee members present were Council Member Lynne Mason, Council Member Jeannine Underdown-Collins, Boone Resident Dr. Harry Davis, ASU Parking & Traffic Director Barry Sauls, ASU Design & Construction Engineer Allison Kemp-Sullivan, App State Physical Plant Director Mike O'Connor, Watauga County Planning & Inspection Director Joe Furman, Alternative Transportation Committee Member Margie Mansure, and Alternative Transportation Committee Member Kathy Henson.

Staff members present were Public Works Deputy Director Eric Gustaveson, Boone Police Chief Dana Crawford, Boone Planning and Inspections Director Bill Bailey and Street Division Superintendent Greg Hollars.

Guests: Matt Powell, Ginger Powell and Claire Powell

Craig Scheffler welcome all in attendance and opened the meeting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes were reviewed by attending members with no additional comments. Committee Member Mike O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Joe Furman, to approve the March 8, 2016 meeting minutes as written.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

PUBLIC COMMENT: WILDWOOD LANE

Matt and Ginger Powell came to the Committee to express concerns regarding speeding traffic on Wildwood Lane. Mr. Powell stated that he and his wife came representing the neighborhood residents that signed a petition (see attached) requesting that the speed limit be lowered as well as placing speed humps as calming devices. With seventeen children living on Wildwood Lane who walk and ride their bikes in the neighborhood, it was expressed that something be done to slow motorists. Mr. Powell shared that the neighborhood per the petition supports the installation of speed humps and the lowering of the speed limit. Mrs. Powell stated that service vehicles frequent the neighborhood and tend to travel too fast.

Deputy Public Works Director Eric Gustaveson stated that placing speed humps does cause issue with storm drainage, sweeping the streets, and snow removal. He said that it is feasible to place a speed hump along the flat stretch of street but not along the narrow hilly section at the dead end. It was stated that the street is equipped with speed and children at play signs.

The Committee agreed to have staff investigate possible solutions and bring back to the July meeting for a possible recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS: STREET RENAMING

Mr. Gustaveson updated the Committee stating that Council, in December, directed staff to investigate possible streets for renaming to MLK Blvd. The Committee went back to the Council Retreat for specific clarification and guidance from Council as to the possibility of creating a street naming policy.

He stated that Council was not interested on a policy but wanted a Town street named or dedicated as MLK Blvd. Streets that were mentioned as possibilities were: River Street, Stadium Drive, Hwy 105 Extension, Howard Street, and Poplar Grove Road. It was also discussed to name the walkway along the proposed Howard Street upgrade as the "MLK Walkway". Council Member Lynne Mason stated that there is a refine concept for the Howard Street Project to be revealed soon and this could tie into the West Downtown Boone Plan as well.

Dr. Harry Davis made a motion to recommend Council's consideration that the Martin Luther King Dedication be made to the multimodal Howard Street Pathway connecting College Street to the West Downtown Project. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kathy Henson.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

OLD BUSINESS: "WATCH FOR ME NC" UPDATE

Mr. Gustaveson stated that the Town has been accepted for the 3rd consecutive year to participate in the "Watch For Me NC" Project and completed a "Walk & Bike to School Day" on May 4th and will start planning another Bike Rodeo coordinating with Hardin Park School as well as other events to promote street safety. Alternative Transportation Sub-Committee will be working on these outreach events.

OLD BUSINESS: PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT STATE FARM RD & NC HWY 105 EXT.

Mr. Gustaveson shared that the Pedestrian Crosswalk project for State Farm Rd and NC Hwy 105 Ext. as been approved by Council and has been forwarded to NCDOT to begin its design. He stated that the crosswalk should be in place within the next six months.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Council Member Jeannine Underdown-Collins requested information regarding the Adopt-A-Street Program process. Staff Member Marsha Story stated that the adoption contract requests volunteers to clean their designated street a minimum of three times annual suggesting that two of the cleanups are on or around the Annual Spring and Fall Litter Sweeps/Cleanup Day.

Mrs. Underdown-Collins asked on a citizen's behalf the possibility of the Town taking over the maintenance of North Water Street when taking over South Water Street. Mr. Gustaveson stated that NCDOT prefers to keep their streets connected so not to have to travel a Town Street to maintain their own.

Mrs. Underdown-Collins stated appreciation for the NCDOT's decision to pave Fairway Drive recently. However, now motorists want to speed through the area and inquired if the Police Department might make their presents seen which might address the issue.

Committee Member Mike O'Connor updated the Committee on the Campus Master Plan. Four areas of concern are:

1. Academic Space with enrollment growth
2. Transportation (Parking, Quantity, Location, Policy, Pedestrian & Bicycle Friendly, Walkable Campus, Way Finding, ADA Access, Mass Transit, and Alternative Transportation)
3. Open/Green Space
4. Support Services

Mr. O'Connor stated that there will be a Master Plan Committee that will meet four times to concentrate on these items and provide Charrettes in the Fall to invite all stakeholders for input.

On a motion by Committee Member Joe Furman, seconded by Committee Member Barry Sauls, the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Marsha Story, Program Coordinator