

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

October 5, 2021

Members Present: Melissa Pickett, Curtis Andrews, Bo Henderson, Carol Knapp, & Chris Wetmore

Staff Present: Jennifer Brown & Cory Cathcart

Begin: 9:00 a.m.

End: 11:15a.m.

September Minutes Approval – Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the September minutes. Mrs. Pickett seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Budget Update – Mrs. Brown reported that \$16,580 has been collected since July 1st and \$5,400 has been spent on new hanging baskets, coco moss, and the annual solicitation letters. Mrs. Brown noted that the new mailing company has done an excellent job removing duplicate names and addresses. Additionally, they were able to recognize changes of property ownership and addresses. As such, she has not received any returned letters, saving Town staff many hours and costs sorting and remailing returned letters.

Glen Burney Trail – Mrs. Brown gave an update on progress since September's meeting to better inform hikers on the Glen Burney Trail. She received approval from Cobb and Cindy Milner with Bistro Roca to replace signs. Furthermore, they generously offered to fund new signs. Thanks to the Milners and Mr. Walters, new signs will be fully supported.

Mrs. Brown showed an example of the proposed sign material. She explained that staff, Mr. Walters, and Clay Sulik with Blueridge Trailworks would work on wording, placement, and installation. She reviewed logo options after which a choice was made, and the Commission approved moving forward with new signage.

Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant – Mrs. Brown informed the commission that Blowing Rock was not chosen to receive funding for the PARTF grant. Fifty-five applications were considered and while Blowing Rock ranked first in terms of the Authority's point system, in secret balloting they chose to fund 14 lower ranked. She stated that the state budget has not yet been approved and when it is, there is a possibility that there may be additional funding for PARTF. The Blowing Rock PARTF Grant proposal for Memorial Park may then be reconsidered.

Clock/Streetscape – Mrs. Brown revisited last month's discussion regarding a potential private donation of a clock for Memorial Park. It was agreed then that it wouldn't be wise to consider such an important fixture at least until plans for the next phases for the park are finalized. She shared with BRAAC that new stop lights, crosswalks, and flower beds will be installed at Main Street and Sunset and there would be room for a clock in the flower bed. It was agreed to contact the donor to see if this location would be worthy of their proposed gift.

Other Business – Mr. Andrews asked if the sculpture on Main Street was permanent or if it would be replaced. Mr. Henderson and Mrs. Pickett both confirmed that once Chetola holds their next Sculpture Walk in Spring of 2022 it will be replaced with a new sculpture.

Other Business – Mrs. Pickett mentioned that last week while she was picking up litter along 221, she was asked if the Town would be able to maintain the landscaping at Susie Greene’s corner of 221 and Green Street once the new sidewalk was completed. Mr. Henderson noted that the subject had been previously raised and, for several reasons, was rejected.

Other Business – Mrs. Pickett mentioned a petition is being circulated to reduce speeding and noise on the Valley Boulevard. Suggestions include painting large speed limit signs on the road and erecting signage with flashing lights. This petition is scheduled to be presented to Town Council during the October Town Council meeting. Considering appearance and mindful of visual pollution, BRAAC does not favor either suggestion.