

## Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

November 30, 2023

Members Present: Whitney Brown, Carol Knapp, & Chris Wetmore

Staff Present: Jennifer Brown, Cory Cathcart, & Kevin Rothrock

Begin: 9:00 a.m.

End: 9:50 a.m.

**October Minutes Approval** – Whitney Brown made a motion to approve the October minutes. Mr. Wetmore seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

**Budget Update** – Mrs. Brown reported that nothing had changed since last month. No money has been spent or collected.

**Donation Letter** – Mrs. Brown explained that the mailing company has everything needed to post the donation letter. They are currently working to eliminate duplicate names and addresses and should be sending the letter soon.

**Broyhill Lake** – Mrs. Brown invited Lee Andrews from Mountain Lake and Pond Management to join via Zoom so that he could present in detail the system that he is recommending for Broyhill Lake. He explained that the system would help move biomatter from the bottom of the pond which will help make the pond deeper, essentially a slow dredging process. He did say that the sediment that collects at the drainage pipe and the upper pond would have to be physically removed. He also explained that the system would be very beneficial to the fish because it would oxygenate the pond and help keep algae to a minimum.

Whitney asked why not dredge the pond first and then add the bubbler system to keep it dredged. Mrs. Brown responded that the cost of dredging the entire pond is very expensive and there is currently no budget for it. She also explained that the cost of the bubbler system is \$9300 and if we dredged the entire pond there would be significant damage to the landscaping and turf in the park that staff would have to repair. Mr. Cathcart stated that this would be the best and least invasive way to dredge the pond and that it would be very beneficial to the fish in the pond.

Mrs. Knapp asked how much money was in fund balance and Mrs. Brown stated over \$30,000.

After further discussion, Mr. Wetmore made a motion to purchase the bubbler system and requested that Town Council know that BRAAC is trying to help but the larger problem that needs to be addressed is the sediment flowing into the pond. Mrs. Knapp seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**New Ordinance** – Mrs. Brown stated that Town Council approved expanding and renaming BRAAC during November's Town Council meeting. They approved the new ordinance and renamed BRAAC to Public Land Appearance and Recreation Board. The board will now have 7 members instead of 5 and the 2 new members will start out with a two-year term to stagger the three members who come off the board this year. Mrs. Brown explained that Town Council will review the applicants during the retreat in January, will appoint the members during the February Town Council meeting, and the new board will

begin in March. During that time the current board will create an application to manage requests impacting public lands for applicants to complete for consideration.

**Maple Trees in Memorial Park** – Mr. Cathcart commented that the two dead maple trees in Memorial Park have been removed. The entire root balls were removed without damage to the tree wells. Within the next couple of weeks new electrical outlets will be installed and drainage material and dirt will be installed, after which 20-foot-tall, 4.5 caliper trees will be planted.