

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Special Meeting- December 23, 2013**

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, December 23, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Dan Phillips, Doug Matheson, Sue Sweeting, and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene. BRAAC members in attendance were Barbara Wright, Alice Roess, and Myra Scoggins.

**1. Rock Catchment Fence Proposed at Cliff Dwellers Rock Face**

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock stated that NCDOT had been discussing the need for a rock catchment fence to be placed below Cliff Dwellers Inn due to safety reasons. He stated that in previous conversations regarding the project, a fence of this type had not been mentioned, however, recently it was determined that a fence would be needed at this location. Planning Director Rothrock stated the fence would most likely be 12 to 14 feet high and placed close to the rock face. He advised that Council feedback was needed regarding the preferred color of vinyl and post material.

Council then discussed several options for the placement of the fence.

BRAAC member Barbara Wright commented that she and other members of BRAAC wished for the fence to look nice and wanted to know if it could be moved over slightly. She also asked what length the fence would be. Mr. Rothrock responded the fence would be approximately 150-200 feet and there would not be room to move the fence over. It was the consensus of Council for Mr. Rothrock to discuss the issue further with NCDOT and obtain photos of different fences that could be placed in the area for their review.

Ms. Roess asked why this meeting was held two days prior to the Christmas holiday. Planning Director Rothrock explained that NCDOT needed to order materials as soon as possible. Mrs. Roess agreed with Council regarding the need for photos of all the options for the fence placement.

**2. Rock Wall at Skyland View Drive**

Planning Director Rothrock stated that due to the new alignment of Skyland View Drive, a retaining wall would be required. According to NCDOT, the wall would be faced with actual stone and feedback from Council was needed regarding the type of stone to be placed on the wall.

Mr. Rothrock then discussed options available from which Council could choose. He advised that the wall could consist of the same material that Council had chosen for the majority of walls throughout the project, or the wall could match the one proposed across the road from the #4 hole at Blowing Rock Country Club.

It was the consensus of Council and BRAAC members that uniformity in materials for retaining walls was needed throughout the project.

### **3. Fencing Options Above Retaining Walls**

According to Mr. Rothrock, NCDOT will be installing fencing above the retaining walls throughout the Hwy. 321 project. The standard fencing material would be black vinyl-coated chain link fencing. However, if the Town wanted to upgrade to black aluminum fencing there would be an additional charge of \$50 per linear foot. He also stated that staff had originally proposed an upgrade along the wall sections most visible along the edge of the proposed sidewalks. Some of the chain link fencing would not be readily seen from the road elevation on the top of an 18 to 25 foot high retaining wall. The current proposal in betterment costs was approximately \$74,500. To upgrade all of the fencing to black aluminum, the cost would be approximately \$216,250. He mentioned that Samaritan's Purse had agreed to pay a portion of the upgrade cost for fencing in front of their property.

Planning Director Rothrock requested Council feedback regarding whether they wanted black aluminum fencing as in the original proposal of \$74,500 or; for the entire project for a cost of \$216,250, or; possibly a combination proposal with contributions from Samaritan's Purse.

It was the consensus of Council and BRAAC members that consistency was needed regarding the fencing above the retaining walls throughout the project and that black aluminum fencing would be best. Mr. Rothrock advised there would be an additional cost to the Town of approximately \$192,000 which could be paid in 3-year installments. Commissioner Sweeting inquired if any grants could be obtained to help pay for this upgrade. Staff advised they would check to see what might be available.

### **4. Decorative Pedestrian Lighting**

Planning Director Rothrock began the discussion regarding decorative pedestrian lighting along the section of the project on one side of the road from Green Park Inn to South Main Street and on both sides of the road from South Main Street to Tanger Shoppes. Mr. Rothrock stated the purpose of the lighting was not for highway lighting, but for pedestrians only. Two choices were available, the standard coach lights used throughout town or a coach light alternative with downcast lighting without lenses.

Per Council consensus, coach lights without lenses were chosen. Also, Council and BRAAC members asked that staff get in touch with Blue Ridge Electric regarding the need to straighten leaning lamp posts throughout town.

At 5:00 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Matheson, seconded by Commissioner Yount to enter into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters.

**ADJOURN**

At 5:10 p.m., Council reentered their regular meeting, and with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **J.B. Lawrence**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**