

BRAAC Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2014

BRAAC Members: Alice Roess, Barbara Wright, Myra Scoggins, and Curt Andrews  
Guests: Melissa Pickett and Lowell Thomas  
Staff Members: Chris Pate, Jennifer Brown, and Scott Fogleman.  
Absent: Rita Wiseman, Anne Barnes, Bo Henderson, and Deborah McDowell

The meeting was called to order by Alice at 5:30 p.m.

**Introduction of Landscape Specialist** – Jennifer introduced Chris Pate as the new landscape specialist for the Town.

**Board Member** – Due to the town having to reschedule BRAAC's regular March meeting, Scott recommended that the group go ahead and recognize Melissa as an official member at this meeting with the pending approval of Town Council at the April Town Council meeting. Barbara made a motion to approve going ahead and recognizing Melissa as a board member, Curt seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Expectations of BRAAC/Draft Mission Statement** – Scott introduced a draft mission statement for BRAAC which gave the group something to reference as they were discussing projects and ideas and would let others know what BRAAC's purpose is. The following is the proposal:

The mission of the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission is to promote and enhance the natural beauty of the mountain landscape by providing input and advice to the Blowing rock Staff and Town Council to help preserve and protect publicly maintained spaces.

After discussion Barbara made the motion to approve the mission statement, Curt seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Budget Update** – Jennifer will bring to April's meeting.

**Spring Clean-up Day** – It is Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Everyone will meet at the American Legion and Jennifer will have maps, bags, gloves, vests, and t-shirts ready for the volunteers. We will serve lunch and see if we can get some items donated. Melissa volunteered to contact Chetola for hotdogs, Woodlands for sides, and Coke for drinks. Myra said she will donate chili, Alice will contact Food Lion for cakes, and Jennifer will ask Triangle vending for chips. Jennifer will also make sure that we have condiments, plates, forks, and napkins.

**Spring Planting Day/Hanging Baskets** – Spring Planting Day will be May 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Everyone will meet in front of Town Hall. The Town employees are planning on having a service day May 16 and will hopefully be able to help clean and plant some areas on Main Street and they will get all of the baskets hung. Melissa asked about adding hanging baskets to the light poles from Knights on Main to Shoppes on the Parkway. Jennifer stated that those are old poles that will not hold the weight of the baskets; however we could look into putting a couple of pots per pole, like on Sunset. Jennifer plans to check and

see if there are any leftover hangers and what the cost of the flowers would be to add them. Alice asked to also look into adding some around Broyhill Lake.

**May Meeting/Vote for Board Officers** – Our current board members will vote for chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary during our May meeting.

**Beautification Project Consideration** – Scott explained that the condition of the large blue spruce tree in front of Town Hall has deteriorated and is not in good shape. This situation creates an opportunity to redesign the landscaping in front of Town Hall which would include replacing the tree. Chris presented a preliminary design of what it might look like. Alice said she would rather there not be any boxwoods in the design and felt that this project should be done in stages with the tree to be last to go in order for people to have time to accept the tree being removed. Barbara stated that people would be very upset with the tree removal and agreed with Alice. Melissa said that she thought it would be better to remove the tree and complete the entire project all at once for the full visual effect. Myra and Curt both agreed with Melissa and felt that it should not be drawn out. Chris stated that there are two windows of opportunity to plant the new tree, spring and fall. He preferred to plant in the spring in order for the tree to take root before being decorated for the holiday season. They all agreed that there should be public notice and it might not be a bad idea to maybe wait until next spring and have a final fair well to the tree during this year's Lighting of the Town. Scott suggested that we table the discussion until April's meeting to discuss the topic with more members of BRAAC present. It was a unanimous decision to table the discussion.

**Summer Intern** – Jennifer stated that we having funding of \$2,000 from the community Foundation Grant received in September. She also said that we are looking at a 13 week internship, 32 hours per week at \$8 per hour and would need \$1,328 of BRAAC funding to support this position. Melissa made a motion to fund the remaining \$1,328 for an intern for Chris, Curt seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held Thursday, April 3, 2014 at Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.