

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
August 1, 2017

BRAAC Members Attending: Curt Andrews, Bo Henderson, and Melissa Pickett,

BRAAC Members Absent: Deborah Mc Dowell and Jennifer Chick

Staff Members: Jennifer Brown, Chris Pate, Ricky Hudson, Autumn Goheen, and Ed Evans

Guests: Virginia Tech Students & Staff and Eric Muecke from NC Forestry Service

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer stated that the new budget started July 1st and nothing has been spent or collected since then. Bo stated that if Jennifer would give him the names of the people that had hanging baskets and planters donated in Memory/Honor of he would make sure the news outlets received it to put in the paper and on the website.

Trees in Memorial Park: Jennifer stated that we just received the final updated report from Eric Muecke about the trees in Memorial Park. This report will be given to Town Council and they will decide as to the next steps that will be taken as far as what trees will be taken down and what trees will be left. The group was in agreement that the trees that are a safety concern should be taken down and replaced. It did not make sense to only replace a few trees each year because the replacement trees won't grow fast enough in one year to make a difference.

Donation Letter Revision: Jennifer stated she would send out last year's donation letter to everyone and they can send back any suggestions on changes that need to be made. Melissa asked when the letter would be sent out and Jennifer stated once the addresses were received and the letter was finalized the goal would be to send it out no later than the end of August.

Blue Ridge Electric Grant: Melissa read through the letter that BRAAC received from Blue Ridge Electric and what projects were candidates for the grant. After further discussion, the group decided to apply to help renovate the back of Memorial Park. It coincides with the design that Virginia Tech presented earlier and it included an ADA ramp. Jennifer stated that part of the upcoming bond project was to already to replace the retaining wall on the back of Memorial Park so if we received money for the grant then it could be more feasible to add the ADA ramp. She also stated that she would talk to Ed and find out what the next steps would be because Town Council must approve the design first. Curt stated he would look over the grant application and work on what he can and then he will ask for help with the rest of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.