

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 14, 2016**

The Seven Devils Recreation Commission met on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at Town Hall. Present were Chair Anne Fontaine, Members Leigh Sasse, Kay Lambert, and Ed Beck. Member Bob Bridges was present via phone conference call. Member Martha Stearns and Skip Watts were absent. Also present was Town Manager Debbie Powers. The minutes were recorded by Sara Miller, Town Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Anne Fontaine called the meeting to order at 9:07AM.

**REVIEW MINUTES**

**ADOPT MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING—January 14, 2016**

Member Kay Lambert made a motion to approve the January 14, 2016 Minutes, making one revision regarding the spelling of Bernice Byrnes' name. Member Bob Bridges seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Member Lambert made a motion to approve the April 14, 2016 Recreation Commission agenda. Member Bridges seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**SEVEN DEVILS RECREATION PLAN**

**BRAD LAMBERT—PRESENTATION OF MASTER RECREATION PLAN MAP**—Brad Lambert, Town Council Mayor Pro Tem, stated that the draft Master Recreation Plan he was going to present was just a concept, and not an actual budget item. The Recreation Plan map included current features such as Otter Falls, Seven Devils playground, picnic area, Bear Paw natural area, Blue Ridge Conservancy land, and the mini-park by Saddle-Up Ranch stables. The Master Plan map also included future ideas such as several trails and greenways that would, if all were completed, connect the entire Town via trail. It would also include possible lake recreation and park areas by Town Hall and in Woodwinds.

Chair Fontaine then presented the written Master Recreation Plan that reflected what the Recreation Map showed, as well as the purpose and mission of the Recreation Commission. Member Lambert stated that she was concerned that the Woodwinds residents would not be open to using their green space as a Town greenspace. Chair Fontaine stated she would change the language in the Recreation Plan to say a "private park located in Woodwinds Estates" until a formal agreement was met with the residents of Woodwinds.

After some further discussion, Chair Fontaine stated that the Town Council would like for the Recreation Commission to vote and recommend the presented Master Recreation Plan be the Town of Seven Devils Master Plan. Member Leigh Sasse made a motion to approve and recommend the Master Recreation Plan containing two revisions, one being to correct the acreage of Blue Ridge Conservancy land and one to change the language to a private park in

the Woodwinds community, as well as to update the Master plan on an annual basis. Member Bridges seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

## **IDEAS FOR 2016**

**TREE CITY USA—COMMITTEE**—Manager Powers gave an introduction to Tree City USA, stated that the Town wanted to start the process of becoming a Tree City. She stated that four requirements needed to be met before earning the status of a Tree City, one of which was to form a Tree Committee/Board. She hoped that the Recreation Commission would volunteer and be the acting Tree Board, and meet briefly after the Recreation meetings, if needed. Chair Fontaine stated that she thought it was a great idea and that the Commission would have no problem acting as the Tree Board. No action was taken.

**WALKING CHALLENGE**—Member Bridges stated that the Walking Challenge would be renamed for 2016, to “Let’s Get Fit!”. The challenge this year would include all exercise that could be converted into miles to submit. Chair Fontaine stated that the mile goal for the Town would be 12,000 miles. After brief discussion, the Committee decided to have group walks in June, July, and August, and for the Town to try to contribute 100 miles to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event for NC State Parks. No action was taken.

**SAFETYFEST**—Chair Fontaine stated that her and Mayor Fontaine would possibly be unavailable for SafetyFest this year and would need others to cover their normal duties. She also asked Member Lambert if anything was needed for SafetyFest. Member Lambert stated that she still needed to order trinkets and prizes, but that otherwise she could not think of anything. No action was taken.

**WORKSHOPS—DATES**—Chair Fontaine stated that she was working with Park Ranger Andy on scheduling workshops for the summer. They would like to do the amphibian/salamander walk, as well as a bear workshop and possibly one on seasons. Chair Fontaine hoped to schedule most workshops for weekends, in hopes that attendance would be higher. She also stated that she was waiting to hear from Bernice Byrnes regarding art classes, and that Skip Watts had committed to providing junior tennis classes. No action was taken.

**PICKLEBALL/TENNIS COURT**—Chair Fontaine stated that she was waiting on a quote for resurfacing the tennis courts and for painting a Pickle ball court. No action was taken.

**MOVIE NIGHT**—Chair Fontaine stated that the cost of rental equipment for a Movie on the Lawn event would be approximately \$450.00, and an added \$150.00-\$300.00 to buy the license to show a movie. Member Lambert asked if there would be a charge for movie goers. Chair Fontaine said that it would be a free event. She asked if there were any members of the Commission that would like to help her organize a movie event for after SafetyFest. Member Bridges stated that he would help and Town Clerk Sara Miller stated she would help. No action was taken.

**MUSIC ON THE LAWN**—Chair Fontaine stated that she contacted a local band named Amantha Mill for a possible Music on the Lawn event at Seven Devils Town Hall. The band agreed that they would do a show for \$600.00, and would bring their own equipment. The Commission agreed that this event would be for after the SafetyFest event, and also would

depend on the Band's performance schedule. Chair Fontaine stated that she would check for availability with the band and update the Commission. No action was taken.

**KIDS IN PARKS- "TRACK TRAILS"** –Chair Fontaine explained that the Kids in Parks program provides child friendly information at trail heads for families to use when hiking. She stated that kids can also utilize their website to find new hikes and research nature aspects of each hike. She thinks it would be a great asset for Otter Falls. Manager Powers and Chair Fontaine would further research funding, and possibly ask the TDA to help. No action was taken.

**GARDEN CLUB**—Chair Fontaine stated that the Garden Club would begin in another month once summer residents return. No action was taken.

**ART GUILD**—Chair Fontaine stated that she was waiting for an update from Bernice Byrnes about the Art Guild, and would update at a later meeting. No action was taken.

### **MEMBER INPUT**

Chair Fontaine stated that she and Mayor Fontaine had met with some members of the High Country Realtor's Association in regards to a future Seven Devils Realtor Open House, and that they and Manager Powers had planned to attend their next HCRA meeting to give a Seven Devils presentation.

Member Beck suggested that residents get together to go to a Hickory Crawdads game. Chair Fontaine stated that she would send out an email to gauge interest in going to the May 15<sup>th</sup> game.

Member Bridges asked for an update on the AED/CPR classes for the residents. Chair Fontaine stated that she would check with other Rec departments and ask what they do to provide this. She also stated that she knows Fire Chief Bobby Powell could provide a class.

Member Lambert stated that there would not be a spring Operation Medicine Cabinet event. She said that there are permanent hazardous waste facilities in Watauga County that just opened. The October Operation Medicine Cabinet event was still on the calendar.

Chair Fontaine wished to thank Mayor Pro Tem Lambert on behalf of the Commission for his hard work on the Master Recreation Plan. Everyone is very excited about the future possibilities.

### **ADJOURN**

Member Bridges made a motion to adjourn. Member Sasse seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.

---

Anne Fontaine, Chair

---

Sara Miller, Town Clerk