

**Town of Seven Devils
Recreation Commission
Minutes--Regular Session
January 13, 2015**

The Town of Seven Devils Recreation Commission met at 4:00 in Town Hall on January 13, 2015. Members present were Anne Fontaine, Kay Lambert, and Martha Stearns. Leigh Sasse was absent. Laura Shoemaker and Sarah Evans from Appalachian Sign attended. Several citizens also attended.

Anne Fontaine distributed copies of the agenda and called the meeting to order.

Kay Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2014, and Martha Stearns seconded the motion. It passed.

Ed Evans, Town Manager, said that the Otter Falls information session at town hall on January 6, 2015, was well attended, and there was a lot of interest in making improvements to the Otter Falls area. He gave a presentation about potential enhancements to the Otter Falls area and discussed the NC PARTF application process. He and a trail specialist had explored the area and identified three areas where additional trails might be constructed. He had marked these on a wall map. He also pointed out some places where railings and handrails should be installed to make the trails safer. Signs identifying the various trails also need to be installed. He will present a proposal to the Town Council at their next meeting to apply for a \$40,000 or more grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to accomplish these additions to the Otter Falls area. Three Town Council members were present, and Larry Fontaine, Seven Devils mayor, stated that, having spoken to the other council members, he was sure that application for a grant would be unanimously approved. All Recreation Commission members voiced their support for the project and were excited about the possible further development of hiking trails.

Laura Shoemaker and Sarah Evans from Appalachian Signs made a presentation about possible signs for the Otter Falls Trailhead. They showed a picture of a suggested sign and provided samples of three types of signs—printed aluminum, painted marine plywood, and carved high-density urethane. They said it would take four to six weeks to make the sign after the design is finalized.

We decided to use carved high-density urethane for the trailhead sign and painted marine plywood for all other signage. All signs in the Otter Falls area will use the same color scheme. The sign will have two support posts and a shed roof. Anne Fontaine will get an estimate with our specifications, including support structure, shed roof, and installation from Appalachian

Signs. Having volunteers and town employees build the support structure and the shed roof and install the sign is an option. Anne will present details about the sign to the Tourist Development Association in hopes that TDA will cover the cost of the sign.

We discussed several topics relating to the grand opening of the Otter Falls Area:

Transportation

Enterprise will rent fifteen passenger vans for \$111.00 per day plus \$40.00 for insurance. The League of Municipalities may already cover insurance. We decided to rent two or three vans, and we will investigate the need for insurance and whether or not drivers need chauffeurs' licenses.

Ribbon Cutting

Seven Devils is a member of the Watauga County Chamber of Commerce and the Avery County Chamber of Commerce, and they both have large scissors that can be borrowed.

Parking

We have obtained permission for attendees at the grand opening to park in the lot closest to the street at the condos across the street from town hall. Parking will also be available at the Seven Devils Resort Club, where the reception will be held.

Time Line

The trailhead sign needs to be in place by May 1. Invitations need to go out about May 1. An announcement about the Otter Falls opening should be in the April Echo.

Anne Fontaine reported that the Recreation Commission has \$1262.23 left in our budget. Martha Stearns made a motion that we donate \$1000.00 to the expenses associated with the opening ceremony of the Otter Falls area. Kay Lambert seconded the motion, and it passed.

Our next meeting will be at 4:00 on February 10, 2015.

Submitted by:

Martha Stearns, Secretary