

**Town of Seven Devils
Recreation Commission
Minutes--Regular Session
January 14, 2016**

The Town of Seven Devils Recreation Commission met at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall on January 14, 2016. Members present were Ed Beck, Bob Bridges (by telephone), Anne Fontaine, Kay Lambert, Leigh Sasse, and Martha Stearns. Bernice Byrnes, Larry Fontaine, Brad Lambert, Debbie Powers, and Skip Watts were also present.

Debbie Powers opened the meeting for the election of officers. Leigh Sasse nominated Anne Fontaine as chairperson. Ed Beck seconded the nomination, and Anne was elected. Kay Lambert nominated Leigh Sasse as vice-chairperson. Ed Beck seconded the nomination, and Leigh was elected. Kay Lambert nominated Martha Stearns as secretary. Ed Beck seconded the nomination, and Martha was elected.

Debbie turned the meeting over to Anne Fontaine. Anne distributed copies of the agenda, and it was approved.

Kay Lambert made a motion to approve the September 10, 2015, minutes. Leigh Sasse seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Anne Fontaine gave a final report on the 2015 Walking Challenge. There were fifty-four participants who walked a total of 15,430.22 miles. The overall winner, Ed Meilus, walked 819 miles. The couple winners, Leo and Madeline Starzec, walked 836 miles. The male winner, Larry Fontaine, walked 614.7 miles, and the female winner, Phyllis Miller, walked 625 miles. Previous winner Bill McLean walked 1261 miles, and previous winner Bob Bridges walked 1061.4 miles.

Larry Fontaine gave an update on the Connect NC Bonds Act, a \$2 billion infrastructure bond package that will be on statewide ballots March 15, 2016. It will provide investments in higher education, agriculture, state parks, National Guard and water and sewer infrastructure. Residents in Seven Devils could benefit directly through improvements to our water system. It will increase PARTF funds that would make grants more obtainable. The bond could allow Grandfather Mountain State Park to build a new office building and a much larger parking lot for the Profile Trail. If the bond package passes, it will not raise taxes.

We briefly reviewed the current Seven Devils Recreation Plan. It needs to be updated, and we will do this at our May 12 meeting. Larry Fontaine suggested that the plan should include a map that designates the location of recreation facilities.

There was a lengthy discussion about recreation ideas for 2016. We will continue to offer workshops in conjunction with rangers at Grandfather Mountain State Park. We will choose topics and work on a schedule at our April 14 meeting.

Bob Bridges and Ed Beck will organize and lead group walks. We may change the name Walking Challenge to Activity Challenge. Bob pointed out that the main focus of group walks and the Walking Challenge is to get as much participation as possible, so group walks need to appeal to as many people as possible. North Carolina State Parks are celebrating their 100th birthday in 2016 by encouraging people to hike 100 miles in state parks. We will participate in this, possibly with group efforts, but this effort will be separate from our group walks. Ed Beck reported that Grandfather Mountain State Park is sponsoring seven walks in January and February. They will also have a booth at the Seven Devils SafetyFest.

The Seven Devils Garden Club was established in 2015 with seven members, and the club weeded three planting beds and started adding perennials to two of them. This year the garden club will continue to work on two of the planting areas, adding more perennials and some annuals. Some funds are remaining from last year.

The Art Guild wasn't active in 2015, but Bernie Burns said she would volunteer to teach some art classes at Town Hall in 2016.

Watauga County Parks and Recreation will give a presentation about Senior Games in April.

There has been some interest in pickle ball in Seven Devils, but it's hard to determine if there is enough interest to adapt one of the tennis courts. We may use tape to put temporary pickle ball lines on one of the tennis courts, offer a workshop, and see how many people attend it.

Skip Watts suggested that yoga or Pilates sessions might be offered at Town Hall. He also suggested establishing some bicycle trails and building a sledding slope. He will write a proposal about sponsoring one of the Valle Crucis soccer teams. He has been giving tennis lessons to children and could include more. Other suggestions were computer classes and shredding events.

We will have music nights and movie nights at Town Hall. Bob Bridges suggested that we could have them on the same night with music first and a movie after dark.

We will not meet in February or March, and our next meeting will be April 14, 2016.

Bob Bridges made a motion to adjourn. Leigh Sasse seconded it, and it passed.

Submitted by:

Martha Stearns, Secretary