

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**December 12, 2017**

The Seven Devils Town Council met for the Organization meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at Town Hall. Present were Larry Fontaine, Brad Lambert, Kay Ehlinger, and Tina Bailey. David Ehmig was absent; a quorum was present. Also present were Town Attorney Rob Angle and Town Manager Debbie Powers, the minutes were recorded by Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Town Manager Powers called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**OATH OF OFFICE – TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Clerk Gropp administered the Oath of Office to Tina Bailey, Kay Ehlinger, Brad Lambert.

**NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR**

Manager Powers opened the floor for nominations for Mayor. Member Ehlinger nominated Larry Fontaine. Member Bailey seconded the nomination. Manager Powers called for any additional nominations; there being none, Manager Powers closed the nominations. The votes for Larry Fontaine as Mayor:

In Favor – 3 – Tina Bailey, Kay Ehlinger, Brad Lambert

Opposed – 0

Absent – David Ehmig

**OATH OF OFFICE – MAYOR**

Town Clerk Gropp administered the Oath of Office to Larry Fontaine.

The gavel was handed to Mayor Fontaine to complete the Organizational Meeting.

**NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR PRO-TEM**

Mayor Fontaine opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Member Ehlinger nominated Brad Lambert. Mayor Fontaine seconded the nomination. Mayor Fontaine called for any additional nominations; there being none, Mayor Fontaine closed the nominations.

The votes for Brad Lambert as Mayor Pro Tem:

In Favor – 3 – Tina Bailey, Kay Ehlinger, Larry Fontaine

Opposed – 0

Absent – David Ehmig

**OATH OF OFFICE – MAYOR PRO-TEM**

Town Clerk Gropp administered the Oath of Office to Brad Lambert.

### **ADOPT AGENDA**

Mayor Pro-Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Leigh Sasse – 245 Chestnut Ridge Trail – Offered her sincere thankfulness to Anne Fontaine, Kay Lambert, and all volunteers for the efforts on Lite up the Nite. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all and the decorations are beautiful. Thank you to the TDA.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Manager Powers provided the following update:

The 7D website has a new tab that features detailed information about the Occupancy Tax along with Owner's requirements/obligations for submittal to the Town. A visual demonstration of the website feature was given during the Town Council meeting. The information and forms for this feature were provided by Helga Sappington, Finance Officer. With the increase of short term/vacation rentals in the Town, this provides easy access to the information and Helga is actively taking the steps to collect all Occupancy Tax due to the Town.

The Public Works Department has 2 additional storage sheds recently built to provide shelter for equipment. The Police Department has a traffic counter that is being used throughout the Town. It collects data & generates numerous reports that are reviewed by Police Chief Davis. The funds for these purchases were provided by the Partnership for a Better Seven Devils.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lite up the Nite occurred on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> with 57 people attending. A potluck dinner followed the lighting and turkey & ham was provided by the Town; this event is sponsored by the TDA and Recreation Commission.

Town Hall will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas. Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day.

In recent weeks, the Town has received complimentary letters to Staff, Public Works and Lite up the Nite Committee from residents: Bob Dodson, Sarah Manning, the Deese's and the Nelson's.

The Winter Echo Newsletter is available on the website or at Town Hall.

The Town has joined the North Carolina Towns & Convention Cities with a membership for 2018. During the meeting, the website [www.resorttownsandconventioncities.com](http://www.resorttownsandconventioncities.com) was

accessed and the pages featuring Seven Devils were shown. There are 2 meetings each year and offers guidance & support to the Town, TDA and for Occupancy Tax distribution.

The HCCOG will be assisting the Town with the PARTF grant writing process; a 3% fee will be applicable. The PARTF grant is a 50/50 grant; the 3% fee does not apply if the Town doesn't receive the grant.

The reimbursement of \$26,665.62 for the NC Fire 50/50 Grant has been received by the Fire Department. The grant funds purchased thermal cameras, rescue equipment, turnout gear, rain coats, training & firefighting equipment. Recently the Fire Department used the Kubota for a rescue at Otter Falls. The patient was very thankful and wrote a letter of gratitude to the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders.

Blue Ridge Electric is replacing the street lights with LED lights.

Improvements are being made to the handicap access ramp to Town Hall. The well house doors will be replaced and several windows in Town Hall. Funds provided by the TDA.

Manager Powers provided an update on Tree Permits, Projects, Fence Permits, Complaints, Real Estate Closings.

### **OLD BUSINESS- NONE**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **13) A. ADOPT CODE OF ETHICS FOR TOWN COUNCIL OF SEVEN DEVILS**

Mayor Fontaine stated the Town Council should have already reviewed this document as signatures are required by each member. No further discussion. Mayor Pro-Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the Code of Ethics for the Town Council. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

#### **13) B. DISCUSSION ON RE-APPOINTMENT FOR RTAC**

The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee reviews NCDOT projects. Member David Ehmig has served on this committee in the past. To alternate representation, it is expected that Blowing Rock will have a member serve in the upcoming term, otherwise, Member Ehmig will continue. ~CLOSED~

#### **13) C. CALENDAR FOR 2018**

For informational purposes the Town Meeting Schedule and Town Holidays have been provided to Town Council. No discussion occurred; no motion needed. ~CLOSED~

**13) D. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION**

Mayor Fontaine read the following resolution:



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES RENDERED BY KAY LAMBERT**

WHEREAS, Kay Lambert has served the citizens of her community as a key Member of the Public Safety Committee/PBSD, Member of the Recreation Commission, Chair of the Tree Board; and

WHEREAS, Kay Lambert has served with unwavering enthusiasm and attention to detail, providing unending volunteer work for the Town of Seven Devils and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kay Lambert has been key in producing the Annual Safety Fest celebration every summer, leads the biannual Operation Medicine Cabinet - coordinating with Town Police and the County Sheriff, and has been the Lead Librarian in the Town Lending Library; and,

WHEREAS, Kay Lambert is always the first to volunteer for any needed function; and,

WHEREAS, Kay Lambert is continually complimenting the actions and efforts of the Town Council Members, Town Committee members, and Town staff, both at meetings and individually; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council for the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that it expresses to you, Kay Lambert, on behalf of itself and other citizens and officials, appreciation for your unselfish and invaluable service and contributions rendered, and urges all citizens to join in extending appreciation for your service to the people of Seven Devils.

Approved this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor

  
Kay Ehlinger, Council

  
Tina Bailey, Council

  
Brad Lambert, Mayor Pro Tem

  
David Ehmig, Council

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert read the following resolution:



**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE  
FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES RENDERED BY ANNE FONTAINE**

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine has served the citizens of her community as Chairperson and Member of the Tourism Development Authority, as Chairperson and Member of the Recreation Commission, and Member of the Tree Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine has served with vision, enthusiasm, and integrity, and provided unending volunteer work for the Town of Seven Devils and its citizens, as well as honorary First Lady; and

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine has implemented the following Recreational functions in the Town, such as the Music on the Lawn, Movie Nights on the Lawn, the annual "The Hawk - 7K @ 7D", the annual Walking/Activity Challenge, the Arbor Day celebration, the Garden Club, Tennis/Pickle Ball Clinics, Aerobics classes, Art Guild classes, annual "Lite up the Nite" holiday celebration; and,

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine served to dedicate and promote Otter Falls, our Town park; and has been a keen advisor on advertising, TDA purchases for the Town, and communicator to our residents via email; and,

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine has created a solid working relationship with the Grandfather Mountain Park Rangers, and the High Country Association of Realtors, and the Cooperative Extension; and

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine has spearheaded the expansion of the Town playground, and integrating pickle ball into the Town tennis courts; and

**WHEREAS**, Anne Fontaine has participated in, and supported the creation of the written Master Recreation Plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council for the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that it expresses to you, Anne Fontaine, on behalf of itself and other citizens and officials, appreciation for your unselfish and invaluable service and contributions rendered, and urges all citizens to join in extending appreciation for your service to the people of Seven Devils.

Approved this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor

  
Kay Ehlinger, Council

  
Tina Bailey, Council

  
Brad Lambert, Mayor Pro Tem

  
David Ehmg, Council

A reception will follow tonight's meeting to honor Kay Lambert & Anne Fontaine.

~CLOSED~

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Board of Adjustment—No November Meeting**
- Planning Board—No November Meeting**
- Public Works—No November Meeting**
- Public Safety Committee—No November Meeting**
- Recreation Commission – No November Meeting**
- TDA – No November Meeting**
- ABC Board**
- Tree Committee – No November Meeting**
- Public Safety Department**
  - Police Report**
  - Fire Report**
- Financial Report**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Member Ehlinger mentioned year 2017 has been positive and looks forward to 2018. She also welcomed new Member Tina Bailey to the Town Council.

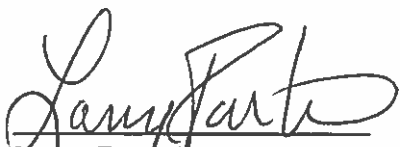
Mayor Fontaine expressed his belated gratitude to outgoing Council Member David Hooper for his years of service to the Town.

Mayor Fontaine also acknowledged all the candidates who campaigned and participated in the recent elections and noted the results were very close.

Mayor Fontaine expressed his gratitude to Mayor Pro Tem Lambert for his support as Mayor Pro Tem on the Town Council. He also noted the Town Council is tasked with doing what is best for most people and town along with the importance of following the Code of Ethics in Agenda Item-New Business 13) A.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

  
Larry Fontaine  
Mayor



  
Hillary Gropp  
Town Clerk