

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 2019
5:30pm

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Members Tina Bailey, Kay Ehlinger and David Ehmig. A quorum was met. Also, present were Town Attorney Rob Angle, Town Manager Debbie Powers; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert gave Invocation for tonight's meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Ehmig made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING - February 12, 2019

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - February 12, 2019

ADOPT MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING - February 14, 2019

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Stuart Ryan - 213 Streamside Lane - offered his compliments to the Town; he and his family enjoy their seasonal visits and hope to make Seven Devils a permanent home in the future. He said the Parks & Recreation Committee has done a great job and his family has participated in the various activities offered.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provided the following update:

The Echo Newsletter-Spring Edition is now available online or at Town Hall.

Public Works Director-Kevin Aldridge recently met with the NCRWA to complete annual reports. The Town's water loss is 14%, up from the previous 11%, but much lower than 25% of other towns. RTP Grant deadline is March 15, 2019.

Police Chief Harris attended Property & Evidence Room Training on February 5th.

Town Clerk Gropp attended the Clerks Institute at UNC SOG the week of February 11th -15th.

Fire Chief Powell completed the State Fire Inspection on March 4th. The Town's rating will be announced within 60 days.

TDA funded updates to the Town Hall kitchen, outdoor garbage & handicap ramp; photos of before and after were displayed at the meeting.

Manager Powers has been in communication with 3 local architecture firms as part of the due diligence in building a new Town Hall.

Arbor Day Celebrations will be on Friday, April 26th, the Town will plant an apple tree and dogwood seedlings will be given to attendees. Seven Devils is a Tree City USA designation.

Next HCMA meeting is Thursday, April 11th at Banner Elk; provide a RSVP to Town Clerk Gropp.

Public Works & Town staff received a thank you letter & food tray from resident James West.

Updates for: Tree Permits, Projects, Fence Permits, Complaints & Real Estate Closings.

OLD BUSINESS – None

9) NEW BUSINESS

A. HIGH COUNTRY ABC BOARD

Sara Brewer, ABC Store Manager and Donna Dicks, HC ABC Board Chairman


A presentation was given with updates and the status of NC HB 91 that will bring changes to the current ABC Liquor Control. Tonight's presentation is to let the Town be aware of the effects should liquor sales become privatized, as is being promoted by the NC Retail Association. With the ABC Board, currently money is distributed to the towns of Banner Elk, Seven Devils and Sugar Mountain with a portion allotted for Law Enforcement & Alcohol Education. Each town received \$100,000 this year and these funds would cease if privatization occurs.

Major points include: Merger of multiple ABC stores to a singular ABC store in each county, Increase of currently permitted amount of liquor for transportation; Quarterly reports of bidding & selection of independent contractor for receipt, storage & distribution of liquor from state warehouse; ABC stores can purchase "Customer Special Requests" and allow excess to be sold in store; Allowed delivery fee of mixed beverage orders; Possible Sunday

hours of operations for ABC stores; Allows for free tastings from distilleries, if permitted & approved.

The High-Country ABC Board asks the Town Council to consider the impacts of proposed changes and act to oppose by contacting NC House Representative Ray Russell (D) (Watauga) and Josh Dobson(R) Avery. **No Action Taken**

B. RESOLUTION #2019-02


**RESOLUTION
#2019-02
PART F**

IN SUPPORT OF TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND PARKS AND RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS

WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils recognizes the desire of residents and visitors alike to enjoy parks and recreational services and green spaces; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils endeavors to create and preserve natural resources for the enjoyment of citizens for future generations; and


WHEREAS, in order to address recreational needs in the future, the Town of Seven Devils has allocated financial resources to expand trails, parks, and recreational green spaces; and


WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils has adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, dated May 10, 2016;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Town of Seven Devils Town Council firmly resolves to accept and support the administration of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for \$80,000 for Peak Mountain Trail, with a \$80,000 match in funding, and completion within three (3) years.

ADOPTED, this 12th day of March 2019.

ATTEST:



 Larry Fontaine, Mayor

 Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve Resolution #2019-02; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Board of Adjustment** – No meeting
- Planning Board** – No meeting
- Public Works** – No meeting
- Public Safety Commission** – August minutes
- Parks & Recreation Committee** – February minutes
- TDA** – No meeting
- ABC Board** – January minutes
- Tree Committee** – February minutes
- Public Safety Department**
 - Police Report**
 - Fire Report**
 - Financial Report**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert suggested the Town Council donate personal funds and send flowers to the Mike Tarlton funeral; he served on several committees for the Town.

ADIJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk