

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**February 14, 2017**

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a Public Hearing for a Zoning Map Amendment/UDO Change on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 5:00PM and in a Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM at Town Hall. Present at the Public Hearing were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Council Members Kay Ehlinger, David Hooper, and Town Manager Debbie Powers; Town Attorney Rob Angle joined at the Regular Meeting; Member David Ehmgig was absent. The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fontaine explained the rules of a Public Hearing and then asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert called to open the Public Hearing at 5:00PM. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION**

Town Manager Powers made a brief presentation to explain the recommendation of the one (1) additional Zone Code with a designation of "PARKS". Currently this code does not exist, even though parcels of land are being used as such. The Official Zoning map of the Town of Seven Devils, dated September 10, 2013 will reflect the "PARKS" with the color of purple. These changes will also be reflected in the Unified Development Ordinance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Sarah Manning, 277 Four Diamond Drive**, asked what the light green color represents (Low Density Residential) on the Zoning map. Sarah posed this as a question, rather than a comment and did not sign up or stand to speak, as this was for her clarification in viewing the Zoning map.

Mayor Fontaine explained that recently the Town Council and Planning Board adopted a set of ordinances that pertains to "Parks" only, and tonight's actions help solidify all the steps of Rezoning in regards to "Parks".

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

With no public comments, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**RECESS**

Member Hooper made a motion to recess. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

A recess was taken at 5:05pm.

**CALL TO ORDER FROM RECESS - 5:30PM**

Mayor Fontaine asked for a motion to come out of recess. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to come back from recess. Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**ADOPT MINUTES OF REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING—January 10, 2017**

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

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Kay Lambert, 430 Wildcat Rocks Road**, announced Safety Fest will be held on Saturday, July 1, 2017. She asked for volunteers, help will be needed for this event.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Manager Powers gave a summary of the administrative update.

Hillary Gropp, is the Town Clerk, effective January 30, 2017 and will be taking the Oath of Office later during tonight's Town Council meeting.

Cody Fields, has been hired to the Police Department as a full-time officer for night shift; Additionally, Jonathan Harris has been moved to the Sargent position during the daytime shift. Eddie Hughes will be the senior officer during the night shift.

Real Estate property tax update - Delinquent property taxes are posted in Town Hall and will be posted on the Seven Devils website in early March.

Sold equipment from Public Works – Sale of Assets \$13,400.00

Skyline Drive waterline project is over half done and more intensive work is scheduled; paid to date \$34,000.

Sewer Treatment Plant on Aldridge Road is in the process of acquiring an extra half acre of land to allow for an adequate size of land to complete the project. Discussion incurred about possible future development of surrounding land and the Sewer Treatment Plant will help support this. DOT has given approval on Highway 105 boring.

Manager Powers recently attended the Urban & Community Forestry Grant workshop; This grant will work in conjunction with the Seven Devils plan of becoming a Tree City USA. Arbor Day celebration is April 28<sup>th</sup>, and a tree will be planted.

Helga Sappington attended a workshop with the Avery County Tax office.

Updates were given in regards to Permits, Projects, Complaints, Real Estate Closings, as well as Citizens complaints.

Photos of the observation deck at Otter Falls were shown, as well as a brief update on the current status of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert asked that any/all Citizen's complaints have been resolved and do not carry over from a previous month.

## **OLD BUSINESS - NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

James Tomberlin, Wildlife Biologist/NC Wildlife Commission gave a slide presentation with an overview of the deer inventory and over population in Seven Devils. Mr. Tomberlin spent time in January 2017 with Kevin Aldridge, Public Works and Manager Powers to personally view the local habitat and to better understand the effects of the deer population, therefore offering solutions from destruction of the environment by deer. Mayor Fontaine would like to have more information gathered from other towns and their solutions/ordinances as most likely a committee will need to be formed in Seven Devils. The Council will discuss at the Town Council retreat in March 2017. No action taken.

Zoning Map Amendment/UDO Change – Mayor Fontaine, with no further discussion on the topic following the Public Hearing was ready for a motion to approve and accept; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve; Member Hooper seconded the motion; The members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

Calendar of Events - The Town Council Retreat has been set for Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am – 2:00pm at Foscoe Grandfather Community Center. **~CLOSED~**

Hillary Gropp, was sworn in with the Oath of Office for Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

**RESOLUTION  
#2017-01  
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 \$20,000 in 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 Recreational Trails Program Grant for Peak Mountain Trails, with a \$20,000 match in funding, and completion within two (2) years.

**ADOPTED**, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

Member Hooper made the motion to approve; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion; The members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Board**

**Public Works—No Meeting**

**Public Safety Committee**

**Recreation Commission**

**TDA**

**ABC Board**

**Public Safety Department**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Financial Report**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Manager Powers added the deadline for grant being written by Kelly Coffey at HCCOG and Eric Hiegl at BR Conservancy is February 24, 2017; a preliminary Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 5:00pm and formal Public Hearing on March 14, 2017 at 5:00pm with a presentation by Kelly Coffey and Eric Hiegl.

**ADJOURN**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

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Larry Fontaine, Mayor

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Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk