

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT
FOSCOE/GRANDFATHER COMMUNITY CENTER
MARCH 9, 2017

The Town Council of Seven Devils met for the Annual Retreat on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 10:00AM at the Foscoe/Grandfather Community Center. Present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Members Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig, David Hooper. Also present were Town Manager Debbie Powers and the minutes were recorded by Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 10:04AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Fontaine made a motion to amend the Agenda, adding item 7) New Business 10) Skyline Building. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

REVIEW 2016 GOALS/SET 2017 GOALS

- 1) Continue upgrading the infrastructure of the Town by replacing old plastic pipe with iron pipe.
- 2) Continue the pursuit for grant request for the Recreational Trails program, allowing for additional & extension of trails.
- 3) Continue practical methods to provide additional measures of fire protection to Four Diamonds/Windy Knob Trail sections of Town.
- 4) Continue goal to replace Town Hall and Seven Devils Fire Department.
- 5) Off site location for archiving records.
- 6) Continue to develop parks and green spaces via Master Recreation Plan.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

Employee enrollment in State Health Plan
Skyline Building research/tour
Cell Tower construction
Blue Ridge Conservancy purchases
Master Recreation Plan approval
TDA purchased a mower for Public Works
DOT stripes

IT network system
Mini Park at Alpine Meadows
Paving projects
Tennis Court rehab
Well #1 pump replacement
Mailbox reflector program
Public Works building improvements
Otter Falls – Phase II
New Seven Devils 911 maps
Skyland Drive waterline project approval
Recreation Committee activities

DISCUSSION

- 1) Fishing options in Seven Devils
- 2) Future joint endeavors/events with Resort club to improve the desirability of Town
- 3) Dog Park – location, amenities, citizen input, grant money
- 4) Recreation Plan – Brownlow Park, Acquiring additional property or easements.
- 5) 7D Trails with BR Conservancy-Address parking issues, Ranger Education, Annexation
- 6) ASU Intern
- 7) Blue Ridge Electric – LED lights
- 8) Town Council membership terms/Encouraging replacements & Committee members
- 9) Deer Inventory – Motion
Seven Devils Public Works and Public Safety employees only to harvest deer on Town owned property.
Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made the motion. Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION GOALS 2017

Close out PARTF grant for Otter Falls phase II
Correct Powell Bill – map corrections
Arbor Day celebration – Become a Tree City USA
Annex BR Conservancy properties
RTP grant with COG & BRC
Review CLUP-Every 5 years – Vision Statement
Research additional grants, mini parks and green spaces
Staff meetings, Continue training courses, Certifications for staff

LUNCH

Town Council recessed for lunch at 11:45AM to 12:30PM

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Discussed the Watauga County Sales Tax Distribution potential change from a payback of 60% to 70% causing a \$21,000 revenue loss. An upcoming meeting with the county will be scheduled. The Town of Seven Devils will write a resolution, before April 1, 2017.
- 2) November 2017 Election – Mayor Pro Tem Lambert and Members Ehlinger and Hooper up for re-election. Municipal candidate filing period begins at Noon, Monday July 17th and Closes Noon, Friday July 21st.
- 3) Construction – 2 CO's issued and 2 potential new constructions.
- 4) Ron Sayles- Vest Pocket Investments – Conditional Use Permit – Expired – Past Due Property Taxes
- 5) Cell Tower – Efforts to have another carrier piggyback on the new cell tower have been unsuccessful. Mayor Fontaine will write a letter to Verizon, likewise a generic letter will be drafted for town residents to use and send to Verizon.
- 6) Financials- Manager Powers provided updates on current loans, cash position, Property Tax Collection.
- 7) Skyland Drive Waterline Project – Near completion, chlorination test, bore and connection soon.
- 8) Digital Sign-relocation, program to specific hours per resident's request.
- 9) Avery GIS Map – Right of Way from BR Conservancy to Tynecastle.
- 10) Skyline Building – Lease vs. Purchase

MANAGER ITEMS

Manager Powers provided updates on CIP items:

Postpone police vehicle purchase until 2018

Public Works asset sales, purchases, building improvements

Water telemetry system and PRV in Skyland Drive project

Valuations +\$156,488,894.10

Upcoming tax evaluations scheduled – Avery -2018 and Watauga - 2022

Maps created – Connect 7D, Waterline-Hydrant, 911, Zoning Map/Parks, Otter Falls

High Country Real Estate inventory report with sales, median price

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Council agrees much has been accomplished in 2016. The intention is to continue the productive working relationship in the future.

CLOSED SESSION

The Town Council went into closed session at 1:40PM to discuss a personnel matter. The Town Council returned from closed session at 1:50PM.

ADJOURN

Member Ehmig made a motion to adjourn the Town Council Retreat. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The retreat adjourned at 2:00PM.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk