

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED TRAIL/PARK DESIGN FOR OTTER FALLS PROPERTY**

**April 23, 2014**

The Town of Seven Devils Town Council held a Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed trail/park design for the Otter Falls property. Members present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Members Kay Ehlinger and David Ehmig. Member David Hooper was absent. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans and Town Clerk Sara Miller, who recorded the minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting out of recess at 5:30 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING—PROPOSED TRAIL/PARK DESIGN**

Member Ehmig made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the proposed trail/park design for the Otter Falls property. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

After a brief introduction on the purchase of and development of a trail/park design for the Otter Falls property, Mayor Fontaine opened the hearing for public comment.

**Virginia Irving, 925 Thorncliff Drive**, asked if the information being presented would be on the Town website. Manager Evans stated that it was, and had been for a few weeks. Ms. Irving then asked where the parking lot was going to be located. Manager Evans stated that it would be on Skyland Drive, just past Lillian Drive on the left. There was a break in the guardrail, and it picked up 100ft down the road. This break was the area that the Town proposed for a parking area.

Mayor Fontaine stated that the donation plaques would be at the parking site, as well as rules and regulations posted. He also stated that none of the trails would have ATV access for the public, but for emergency use only by the Town. He then stated that there would be no access or entrance in Blair Mountain Estates for the public.

Ms. Irving then asked how 'no public access' in Blair Mountain Estates would be policed. Manager Evans stated that he hoped citizens would cooperate and follow posted rules. Evans stated that he hoped there would not be a large number of people trying to go through Blair Mountain Estates looking for access, since there would be a public access area. He stated that the Town would do whatever it needed to enforce the rules and those living in Blair Mountain Estates needed to call the police if they saw any trespassers.

**Sarah Manning, 277 Four Diamond Drive**, stated that she had several questions regarding the proposed trail/park design. She asked how long in miles the trail would be. Manager Evans stated that the estimated length would be 1.5 miles one direction. Ms. Manning then asked what the additional red lines were on the proposed plan. Manager Evans stated that they were additional trails that could be added in the future to improve the park. Ms. Manning asked if the Town was able to obtain the small triangle shaped piece of land to add to the top corner of the trail plan. Manager Evans stated that the Town was still attempting to reach the most recent owner of the property, and that tax foreclosure was a possibility. Ms. Manning then asked if building a trail along the old Tweetsie Railroad bed was a possibility, and Manager Evans stated that it would depend on the current owner of the property, but it would be something the Town would keep in mind.

There were no more public comments. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to close the public hearing. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Fontaine thanked Manager Evans for his hard work and time invested into the Otter Falls project. He stated that the Town hoped to keep the additional development costs as low as possible, and that a community volunteer schedule to work on the trails would be posted as soon as the Town was at that stage.

Manager Evans reminded all present that even though the Town owned the Otter Falls property, it is not ready for public access, and to please stay out until the trails are completed.

Anne Fontaine, 127 W. Rocky Top, asked what the timeline was for the Otter Falls project. Manager Evans stated that the contractor who would possibly be doing the trail work gave him a start date of mid-summer.

Member Ehlinger asked if the same contractor would be working on the parking lot. Manager Evans stated that he would not, and that he had been speaking with other contractors about the parking lot work.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert stated that the amount budgeted the previous year for the Otter Falls project was possibly enough to cover not only the closing that already occurred, but also these improvements, and Manager Evans concurred.

**RECESS**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to recess until the Town Council Budget Workshop on April 24, 2014. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting was recessed at 6:05 PM.

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Larry Fontaine, Mayor

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Sara Miller, Town Clerk