

## RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, September 8 2016

Beech Mountain Town Hall – 8:30 am

- I. ***Call to Order*** – Chairman Fred Pfahl called to order the regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee at 8:36am at Beech Mountain Town Hall. Present were Recreation Advisory Committee members Urs Gsteiger, Rory Ellington, Gloria Alge, Nancy Owen, and Barbara Piquet. Absent from the meeting was committee member Gil Adams. Also present were Beech Mountain Parks and Recreation staff members Sean Royall and Amanda Smithson, and Town Manager Ed Evans.
- II. ***Approval of Minutes*** – A motion to approve the August 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 minutes was made as amended by Mr. Gsteiger, and seconded by Mrs. Owen. The motion was passed unanimously.
- III. ***Monthly Recreation Report*** – Mr. Royall presented reports of visitation, income, fitness programs and events from August 2016. Mr. Royall noted that visitation was up by over 1,000 individuals from August 2015. Mrs. Piquet reminded the committee that the facility would be a voting site in November and that would be a great time to market especially evening classes to a captive audience.
- IV. ***Facility & Parks Updates***
  - a. ***Buckeye Lake Pavilion Bathrooms*** – Mr. Royall reported that the trees around the bathrooms had been trimmed to allow more sunlight into the area, a stone retaining wall was being constructed behind the building, and a new roof was slated for the near future.
  - b. ***Buckeye Recreation Center Kitchen Renovations*** – Mr. Royall reported that all kitchen renovations had been completed, with the exception of a gas line to be installed for the stove top later this month. Some unused funds from the project will be used to purchase kitchen utensils and wares.
  - c. ***Emerald Mountain Outback*** – Mr. Royall reported that a large tract of land within the trail system had been sold. This largely affected the western part of the system near the West Bowl Connector Trail. The Elk Valley Overlook will be retained. For the time being, the Town still has access the trail, but will have to secure new easements for trail access. Discussions regarding the trail usage and the EMO in general with the Leidy family will resume in the spring of 2017 after Oz events.
    - i. ***Skills Area*** – With leftover timber from the tree trimming project around the Pavilion, a mountain bike skills area will be constructed just past the parking area off Winter Road.
    - ii. ***Trail Maps*** – Mr. Royall reported that at present it was in the best interest of the Town not to spend more resources on printing EMO trail maps, considering the uncertainty of the area's use in the future. There are currently permanent maps on display at the trailheads, and computer printed maps are available at the Chamber of Commerce and Buckeye Recreation Center. Maps are also available in digital form at [beechrecreation.org](http://beechrecreation.org).

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**V. Upcoming Events**

- a. **Sip & Paint** – Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>; a sip wine and paint instruction class with snacks led by Let's Paint! of Boone.
- b. **Leaf Lookers' Hayride** – Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Royall reported that in previous years, the event had taken place at the top of the mountain. Because of fog and weather conditions (and subsequent safety issues) and a better leaf show the event has been moved down to the recreation center and at an earlier time. The event will be held out in the playing field, and the hayrides will travel up Buckeye Creek Road and into the Westerly Hills trails.
- c. **Winery Hayride** – Saturday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>; will meet and lead off from Town Hall, across Elderberry Ridge Road and down to Banner Elk Winery and back.
- d. **Halloween Event** – Friday, Oct. 28.
- e. **Holiday Market** – Saturday, Nov. 26. This year the Chamber of Commerce will be selling chili as a fundraiser.
- f. **Winter Camp** – Mr. Royall reported that staff is considering putting on a winter “summer” camp around the holidays. Talks are currently underway with the ski resort for tubing or other winter sport activities to be included in the camp.

**VI. Speak Out Session/Miscellaneous**

- a. **CycleNC Event** – Mrs. Owen noted that the CycleNC *Cycle to the Sea* event would take place in Banner Elk on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and that most of the participants would be staying on Beech Mountain and that this would be a great chance to market recreation opportunities on the mountain.
- b. **Coffey Lake Aerator & Beech Mtn Metric** – Mr. Ellington stated that a new aerator would be installed in Lake Coffey sometime before next spring. He also said that the Beech Mountain Club was considering a date change for the Beech Mountain Metric bike race, but had not settled on a date as of yet.
- c. **Mountain Heritage Trout Waters & Shane Property**– Mr. Pfohl inquired as to the status of the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters designation for the waters of Beech Mountain. Mr. Royall reported that a decision would be made for approval by the NC Wildlife Commission sometime in October. Mr. Pfohl also asked into progress regarding the transfer of the Shane property to Town ownership, and Mr. Royall reported that he was waiting on the family for the deed to be drafted.

**VII. Adjourn** – Mr. Pfohl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57. Mrs. Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The next Recreation Advisory Committee meeting will take place on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 in Beech Mountain Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Smithson