TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN

Planning Board Meeting Minutes
January 29th, 2013

Call to Order:

Chairman Andy Porter called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. Other Board Members present in attendance were Brian Barnes, James True and John Hoffman.

Adoption of Agenda:

The agenda was adopted with no change.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Barnes made a motion to adopt the minutes from the previous Planning Board meeting. Motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

Comprehensive Planning- Recreation:

Mr. Scott opened by discussing that he had amassed the results of the recreation meetings and surveys that former Recreation Director Daniel Scagnelli had left with him. He had analyzed this public input as a foundation to begin identifying the Town's recreation priorities.

He summarized the public input regarding recreation, mining out the following major recurring themes:

- The public is very attuned to the need for improved pedestrian walkability (trails, sidewalks, etc.) and increased pedestrian connectivity between various entities and facilities.
- The public would like to see the Town focus on making the recreation amenities that it currently has the best they can be before further extending our resources with new facilities.
- The public wants Beech Mountain to be fiscally responsible with recreation expenditures
- The idea of an indoor heated swimming pool was often mentioned in the recreation surveys and forums and has many supporters, as well as many opponents.
- Increasing utilization of recreation facilities is an important

Mr. Scott then provided an overview of his draft of the Recreation component of the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this section is to develop a roadmap by which future recreation endeavors can be guided so that they are consistent and cohesive. Having an approved recreation plan also helps the town qualify for certain recreation grants. He discussed that he would like the board members to review the plan and get back with him with comments and suggestions.

Mr. Scott outlined the major goals, policies, and strategies regarding recreation in his draft. The major goals of the plan included:

- Beech Mountain becoming a renowned recreation destination
- Offering quality recreational programs and services
- Providing top quality recreational facilities
- Encouraging participation and increasing utilization of Recreation facilities
- Establishing an interconnected trail/pedestrian network
- Ensuring Beech Mountain's recreation endeavors are fiscally responsible

Brian Barnes commented that the numbering system for goals, policies, and strategies was cumbersome and could possibly be improved. Mr. Scott agreed that it could be improved. He explained that the numbering system was intended as a reference mechanism. It was his intention that after the plan was adopted, the Town would incorporate a policy in which specific portions of the plan would have to be cited to amend the zoning ordinance. The intent was to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan was referred to and was indeed used as a guide to future decisions.

He discussed that this plan would also be reviewed by the Recreation Committee and that their guidance would be sought as well.

Discuss Sign Regulations (Temporary Small Scale Events):

Mr. Scott discussed that the Town Council had held the public hearing regarding Temporary Signs for Small Scale Events and that after lengthy discussion they had decided not to adopt the proposed amendments. However, the Town Council indicated that they were in support of the measures, but there were several portions of the way that the amendment was written that they did not agree with. Specifically, they wished to change the wording so that these signs were allowed whenever an event was held, rather than only on weekends. They also wished to remove the provision that gave an adjacent neighbor the ability to have a sign removed if it was in the right of way in front of their property.

The board had no objections to the changes proposed by Town Council and moved to send the provisions back to them as amended.

Discuss Sign Regulations (Open/ Closed neon signs or signs with interior lighting):

Mr. Scott discussed that the Planning Board had previously discussed allowing neon signs or signs with interior lighting if located inside a building, but that these revisions had never been approved by Town Council. Mr. Scott wanted the Planning Board to take up this issue once again.

The amendment that Mr. Scott had drafted allowed one neon sign to be located inside the window of a building or structure if it was smaller than 2 square feet and had no moving parts or flashing lights. It was discussed whether this sign would be allowed in lieu of the currently allowed exterior, non-illuminated

Discuss Kitchens Restrictions in Single Family Homes:

Mr. Scott discussed that Beech Mountain's ordinances had several provisions that dealt with the number of kitchens that could be present in a single family home. He discussed that the intent of these provisions was to act as a mechanism by which the town could prevent multi-family housing from being built in districts zoned for single family homes. It was discussed that restricting kitchens was not an effective way to regulate the use of the housing, because many legitimate single family homes have more than one kitchen.

The board voted to recommend that Town Council delete the provisions that limited single family homes to only one kitchen.

Call to Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Brian Barnes and James True seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Scott
Secretary to the Board