

BEECH MOUNTAIN PARKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2007

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Reub Mooradian called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Other members present were Gil Adams, Jim Brooks and Calder Smoot. Also present were Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Outdoor Recreation employee B. J. Hughes and Recreation Director Craig Colistra.

II. Consideration of Minutes – December 7, 2006

Mr. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2006 as submitted. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Staff Report –

a. Sledding Hill – Mr. Hatch reported that the sledding hill was running well and Mr. Coakley continued to make his skidd steer available to the Town to groom the hill. Mr. Hatch noted that Mr. Coakley was nearing the completion of his construction project and the Town did not own a piece of equipment to groom with. Mr. Hatch suggested that the Committee talk with the TDA about a joint purchase for a skidd steer that could be used at the sledding hill and also at the West Pond Creek Waster Water Treatment Plant. The plant is currently under renovation and has not required this type of equipment.

VI. Other Business

a. Chamber Request – Mrs. Coscia submitted a letter asking that a donation box be placed in the chamber office for the sledding hill. After a brief discussion Mr. Brooks moved to approve the proposal for the donation box. Mr. Smoot seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Committee asked that Mr. Hughes take care of the project.

b. Grant – Mr. Colistra presented the Committee with a proposal for a grant from the NC Division of Parks and Recreation to improve the hiking trails. Mr. Colistra noted that the deadline for the grant application was February 28th. After a lengthy discussion, Committee agreed that Mr. Colistra should proceed with the application and agreed to assist with the process. The committee agreed that the Chairman Mooradian indicated that non-matching grants did not require Council approval for applying. The Committee discussed other possible grants that will be available to us in the future. Butch Keziah, former Beech Mountain Club Manager, was mentioned as a possible contact for grants from the state government.

c. Parks – Mr. Brooks recommended that the Committee make use of Mr. Colistra's expertise in developing plans and cost projections for parks on unused Town properties. The

Authority also discussed donations for same. Mr. Brooks indicated that the Town had already paid the architectural firm that did the recreational center to pick lots suitable for neighborhood parks, one of which was next to Fire Station II. Chairperson Mooradian noted that Mr. Colistra did not work for the Committee and projects would have to be approved by the Town Manager and grant applications for parks and recreation were matching grants which would require Town Council approval. Mr. Adams noted that the Council had directed Bobby Dziejwski to prepare a survey for the purpose of creating a long range plan for the Town. The Committee agreed to give Mr. Brooks the authority to meet with the Town Manager to request Mr. Colistra's help in developing recreation plans and cost projections for Town properties that are suitable for parks. These plans would be used for grant applications as aids for individuals and groups interest in donating for recreation and the Town's long range plan. Mr. Brooks was also asked to request Mr. Colistra's assistant with future recreation grants.

VII. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Smoot, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Reba Greene
Town Clerk