



Town of
Lake Lure
est. 1927 North Carolina

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
August 6, 2015 Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:36pm

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Jim Walters
Ed Dittmer
Linda Turner
Vic Knight
Martyn Watts
Larry Czajkoski

Board Members absent:

Dale Minick

Town Officials present:

Environmental Manager Clint Calhoun
Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter
Town Council Liaison Diane Barrett

Others present:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The agenda for the August 6, 2015 meeting was reviewed.

A motion was made by Ed Dittmer to accept the Agenda; seconded by Linda Turner; all were in favor.

The minutes of the July 2, 2015 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Linda Turner to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Ed Dittmer; all were in favor.**

Geese Mitigation – Larry Czajkoski

Larry presented the Board with his report on Geese Mitigation. In this report he lists Resources such as the NC Wildlife Resource Commission District 8 Wildlife Biologist Danny Ray and the US Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services employee, Andy Moore and Geese Peace's David Feld. This report also list options to reduce/manage resident Canada Geese populations.



Larry and the Board discussed the geese population in Lake Lure, which is in between 100 – 200 resident geese. Over the past 5 years that a plan for managing the population has been in place, there have been an estimated 475 – 500 eggs oiled.

The Board discussed the report in depth. There was discussion of how the feeding of wildlife and specifically the geese “encourages unhealthy behavior” (Clint Calhoun). It was a key discussion that the general public that lives in Lake Lure as well as the tourist that come to visit, get educated on the ordinance that feeding geese is not permitted and that the town needs to take a firmer stance on the language in signs around areas in the park, golf courses and lake where the population of geese seem to congregate. It was discussed to have the signs warn that continued feeding will lead the Town to seek alternative methods to rid the area of geese. There was discussion to heavily make public on the Town’s website, Facebook and other methods, articles that will educate the public that the Town is working hard on managing the population but that the public has to be a part of that plan. Suggestions like not throwing out corn and feed to wildlife were discussed. This attracts the geese as well to feed on these handouts.

Diane mentioned that there was some extra funds in the budget that could assist the Board in extra signage throughout town. The signs could help inform the public of the geese issues. It was discussed that the tourist and home renters come to town and think they can feed the geese either at the park or even on the shores of the rental homes. It was suggested that a No Feeding the Geese brochure be added to rental packets and inform them as well as the ordinance and fines.

Larry continued discussion on the report stating that we’ve been working on this for many years and it comes down to these things in order to keep managing the population. He spoke of the egg oiling which has been a sufficient method in maintaining the hatching of new goslings. Each year this had to be done and volunteers are necessary to make this happen. Additionally Larry discussed the importance of allowing grasses around the lake and parks to grow taller as they assist in deterring the geese from nesting/molting. Another key is harassment of the geese. This requires action from the town’s employees while out and about mowing and maintaining the areas. Harassment of the geese was discussed and the different options and man power it would take to make this happen. It was discussed that in the past there has been attempts made, but that to make this effective, many would need to be involved. Dogs on the beach were discussed early in the morning and later in the day. It was also discussed to put noise makers on the maintenance vehicles.

There was mention of hunting season, however due to the area’s sanctuary rating and the town’s ordinance on firing weapons, this wouldn’t be an option. Larry mentioned that the final alternative was the euthanizing of the geese, which would require permits and inspection from the government beforehand. The Board agreed that this would cause a large disturbance from the public, but they also discussed that the public could take action by helping them with the management by volunteering to maintain the population.

In conclusion to the discussion regarding the geese management, it was agreed that Jim would work with Chris Braund and Valerie on how to educate the public that the town was diligently working to keep the population down and that they needed the public’s assistance by adhering to the ordinance as well as possibly volunteering to oil eggs and harass the geese.



The Board discussed getting a harassment program together. Diane mentioned that for this to work the Rumbling Bald Resort had to get on board. Larry discussed the key areas that needed addressing and that this should be a part of the harassment program.

Larry will get with Andy Moore and have him out for a site visit and get his perspective on what's next for the management program. Once this is done, the Board will make a recommendation to the Town Council on the continued management of the geese population.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge and Town of Lake Lure – Village of Chimney Rock Road connector walkway – Linda Turner

Linda updated the Board on the DOT's request of the Flowering Bridge's accounting records summarizing five years. She discussed the expenses that the Flowering Bridge has incurred going back to the milling of the bridge in preparation for what it is today. The DOT is looking at these records for documentation for future bridge preservations. There was mention of the continued donations that come in from visitors, including large groups. She also mentioned that the bridge memory bricks are being sold and that the plant sale was a lot of work but profitable. There was also mention of a possible garden tour throughout town of the homes and areas with thriving gardens.

Donald Ross Park and Trail System – Ed Dittmer

Ed mentioned that the work party on the trails was successful and that all the trails are reconnected. There is still an area blocked off until new signage is installed. Overall it is looking very good. He also measured the trail for accuracy for the new signs. Ed will be getting with Jim on what he'll need from the budget for signs. Ed thanked Melodie for doing a great job and keeping the meadows looking good and mowed. Ed will get with Dale on mowing down a large grouping of sapling trees that have grown up in the vista areas. He is also looking at additional trails so that the new LLCA will be able to utilize the trails for their Cross Country 5K course.

Lake Lure Public Golf Course – Martyn Watts

Dale was not present but Martyn updated the Board stating that the golf course had just under 800 rounds of golf played and almost 100 rounds of foot golf played. The course looks in very good shape. It was discussed that Dale get with Valerie to help promote foot golf on the town's media sources. Martyn will get with Dale to discuss this. There was also discussion of a possible golf team at the new school being that it's so close and convenient. Using the course for the Olympiad next year was also mentioned.

Buffalo Creek Park – Larry Czajkoski

The Board was brought up to date on the Phase II loop that Ed Sutton and Trail Dynamics have completed the deliverable which was a detailed GPS track and maps of proposed routes. Those have been delivered to Chris. Chris is also going to meet with Mike Thomas sometime in August and flag additional parts of the trail that will avoid going into the Gray Rock area which will avoid negotiations with trustees. While Mike Thomas is in town they'll flag some of the steep trails over at Donald Ross. The trail head is in a waiting phase to see what will be happening with as far as the sale, as the state park has intentions to purchase it from Wyndam. After this point, discussions will continue as far as the parking lot and trail head completion. Larry discussed new signage and shared with the Board samples of what they've worked on. There was also discussion about a space for temporary/seasonal



signage area. Larry shared the 2015 trail usage report which to date showed an average of 3.7 bikers per day and 20 hikers per day, with overall 4150 trail users to date. There is an estimated trend for annual usage of 7000. The Board was happy with these numbers.

Joey Allen Donnie Tessner completed the picnic pads for the public, which included an accessible wheelchair ramp. Larry mentioned on the Type 1 trail from Buffalo Creek to the trailhead that there was an area that Tony will be working on to create a ditch with rock and using a culvert about half way down to run it over to the creek. Melodie will be helping on this process.

Pool Creek Park

Vic mentioned to the Board that the park is getting great traffic in it. There were many people over the last weekend. The parking lot will be paved soon and there will be wheel stops installed. There was mention of new signs for that area. There was discussion regarding picnic tables and what type to purchase as well as the pricing. Vic suggested installing picnic pads which would make it easier for maintenance and upkeep. Additionally it would keep from having to move the tables to mow. Melodie discussed putting 5 grills in the area at \$180 each. Vic also mentioned that they should not spend too much money as this was not going to be the permanent means for that area and that on the master plan it was slated for an amphitheater.

The Board also discussed the public restrooms at the beach house and that they were getting locked up after hours. Melodie explained that in order for the town to keep them opened they would need to be cleaned which meant hiring someone to maintain this and clean it every day. There was further discussion regarding the restrooms.

Morse Park – Jim Walters

Jim mentioned that he was still trying to work with the TDA to use their restrooms. There was discussion regarding having the Dirty Dancing Festival moved to the weekend after the Olympiad as there were complaints regarding hoteliers and other establishments losing money because they were not able to accommodate them due to the large crowds that weekend. The consensus with the Board was to see if changing the dates of the Dirty Dancing Festival were possible for the future.

Town Parks and Recreational Punch List – Melodie Potter

Melodie said that there have been a very large amount of yellow jackets out. She has been dealing with Kudzu issues and is getting with Travis to help. Ed mentioned that the spillway is overgrown with the black willows and that some needed cutting.

New Business

Diane mentioned that the need for the picnic tables and grills in Pool Creek Park could be addressed by the Board requesting the need of the extra funds she previously mentioned. She stated that writing a letter to the Town Council regarding the need for the funds to beautify Pool Creek Park would be acceptable and that from there the council would decide. There would be a need for 9 tables and 5 grills and the material to build the picnic pads.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ed Dittmer and seconded by Linda Turner. The August 6th meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board was adjourned by Jim Walters with all in favor at 3:34pm



Minutes were transcribed by Town Liaison Kat Canant

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be September 3, 2015 at 1:30pm

