



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
July 2, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Mr. Jim Walters called to order the July 2, 2020 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m. at the Lake Lure Town Hall.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Mr. Jim Walters, Chairman

Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Dale Minick

Mr. Larry Czajkoski (via electronic live feed)

Mr. Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman

Ms. Maureen Bay

Mr. Martyn Watts

Board Members absent:

Mr. Dan Bragdon, Alternate

Town Council Members present:

Commissioner Patrick Bryant (via electronic live feed)

Other Town Staff Present:

Dean Givens, Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director

Laura Krejci, Town of Lake Lure Communications Specialist

Shannon Baldwin, Town of Lake Lure Town Manager

Ms. Dana Bradley – Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation and Trails Coordinator

Others in Attendance:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the July 2, 2020 meeting was reviewed. Mr. Dittmer requested Councilman Bryant's time be moved to the top of the Agenda due to time constraints. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion to approve the Agenda with the change. Mr. Massey seconded and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Minick asked that the June 2020 Golf Report (hard copy) be added to the minutes. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the Minutes as with the addition of the June 2020 Golf Report. Mr. Dittmer seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Town Staff Liaisons

Mr. Bryant reviewed the Town's Community Forum that is coming up on July 28, 2020 that will be held at Lake Lure Classical Academy. Times held during the day will be at 10a.m., 2p.m. and 6p.m. This meeting will consist of conversation regarding the tax codes, the dam, sewer and hydro facilities. Ms. Krejci will be sending out communication to the citizens regarding this forum. Mr. Bryant mentioned that dredging will be postponed until further study is done on the sewer lines in the river area by Morse Park. Mr. Bryant discussed the postponement decision by the Town of Lake Lure regarding Fireworks on July 4th stating that the decision was made by Town of Lake Lure department heads. Mr. Bryant discussed the schedule for further lake dredging will be discussed at further council meetings. There was discussion regarding the lowering of the lake and the importance of the Penstock installation at the dam. There was no date to begin the lake lowering but Councilman Bryant was hoping for a date after the holidays.

Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion

Parks, Recreation & Lake Report – Ms. Dana Bradley

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Parks, Recreation and Lake Report for June 2020 (attached to minutes). Ms. Bradley mentioned that Police are busy out patrolling the Lake. Ms. Bradley reviewed with the Board the work that volunteers were doing on the trails. Ms. Bay inquired about inviting the public to assist, however Ms. Bradley felt that due to COVID restrictions right now she would be working with the current volunteers. Ms. Bradley reviewed the new landscaping plans for the new Marina and mentioned that they were planning on beginning this in the fall. There was discussion that there were only 40 rentable slips left at the Marina and the Board was happy that they had been filled quickly. Ms. Bradley also reviewed the Town Hall Landscaping plan however no date has been chosen to begin with these plans.

Buffalo Creek Park, Weed Patch Mountain & the Trail to Eagle Rock – Mr. Walters

Mr. Czajkoski discussed Conserving Carolina's 10 year contract had ended in June. There was discussion regarding the great and successful job that Conserving Carolina had made in those 10 years. Mr. Czajkoski read a letter from Peter Barr (Trails Director at Conserving Carolina) (attached to minutes). Mr. Czajkoski reviewed Conserving Carolina's past role and thanked them for their work and dedication. Mr. Czajkoski was very sure that Ms. Bradley would be doing as good a job overseeing the Town's trails. There was discussion regarding the Trail Head and Parking Area at Buffalo Creek Park, and that grants should be sought to help with the very much needed facility. There was discussion regarding the kiosk plexiglass at the trail head and that it most likely was vandalized and needed replaced. Ms. Bradley is working on getting this done as well as cleaning up other areas and replacing a picnic table. She will get with Mr. Givens regarding the plexiglass. There was a brief discussion of further maintenance and upkeep. There will be a Buffalo Creek Park workday on July 14th, and a workday on Weed Patch Mountain Trail on July 17th. There was mention of new trails opening in the Hickory Nut Gorge. Ms. Bradley reviewed trail counters (attached to minutes). There was a discussion regarding 4-wheelers and dirt bikes that were using the trails and it was suggested to purchase a trail camera. Ms. Bradley will see about getting signs for that area stating those vehicles are not permitted, and hoped that it would deter the riders without purchasing a trail camera yet. There was further discussion regarding recognizing Peter Barr and Conserving Carolina. Mr. Czajkoski agreed and will look into an accolade for the next Council Meeting. He asked to make sure it goes on the Town Council Agenda for August 8th.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer mentioned that he was very happy with the trail counter numbers on the trails at Dittmer-Watts. Mr. Dittmer discussed that was some areas on the trails that needed maintenance and Ms. Bradley took note of those areas. There was discussion regarding a plan for an alternate route to Raptor Ridge. Mr. Dittmer stated that the trail use may be larger than the trail counters due to other trails having no counters.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey discussed the current theme Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, which is a living wall of plants and is very attractive. There was discussion as well of the upcoming theme Here Comes the Sun for July and August. Mr. Massey mentioned that there are signs requesting visitors to wear a mask. He mentioned mentoring programs to eventually turn over gardens to others. The sprinkler leak repair is in progress. There was discussion regarding a grant awarded from the T.D.A. however Mr. Massey was unsure of the exact amount. He did mention that the donations are on the rise.

Lake Lure Public Golf Course – Mr. Dale Minick

Mr. Minick presented the June Lake Lure Golf Course Report (attached to minutes). Mr. Minick stated that this June was the busiest since opening in 2012. The courses are in good shape and they're cleaning up creek banks and repairing some irrigations. The Disc Golf maintenance crews are preparing for their tournament September 12th and 13th.

Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters

Mr. Walters opened a discussion regarding the postponement of the fireworks. There was discussion regarding dates. Mrs. Krejci informed the Board that the firework company has a contract with the Town and the postpone date was for Labor Day. Ms. Krejci mentioned she would need to speak with the company if that date was changed. There was further discussion from the Board regarding dates and holidays.

Mr. Ed Dittmer made a motion to recommend to Town Council to hold the Fireworks on the night of Labor Day 2020. Mr. Martyn Watts seconded that motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Walters mentioned that the new board walk had been very busy as well as the Marina. He felt that the Town was in a forward motion with the Morse Park Plan and the Amphitheatre was a result of that progress. Mr. Watts suggested using the Amphitheatre to shoot off the Fireworks. There was further discussion regarding this location.

Ms. Bay inquired about the dog bowls for water that had been removed and she offered to purchase new bowls to put back out.

Parks and Recreation Programs and Initiatives – Mr. Dan Bragdon

Mr. Bragdon was not present.

Additional Parks and Recreation Discussion Items – Ms. Moe Bay and Mr. Martyn Watts

Ms. Bay discussed refining the naming policy and reviewed the past meeting that she, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Walters had and that those suggestions were turned in to the Town. It was discussed that that project is now in Ms. Bradley's hands and help will be sought with the Rutherford County T.D.A. regarding naming rights. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Watts asked to meet with Ms. Bradley regarding the Luremont Trails and she agreed to set a date to meet.

Discussion and Recommendations from Guests, Residents & Voters

Mr. Gary Johnson from the Lake Advisory Board discussed that the LAB was given the task to review the Lake Fees in efforts to help the Town to make the Lake self-sustainable. He discussed those intentions. Mr. Dittmer mentioned that the Park and Recreation Board had used many grants over the years to afford projects for the Town.

Mr. Dittmer mentioned that the Olympiad Committee had made a decision to cancel the 2020 Olympiad due to COVID-19.

Mr. Gary Johnson mentioned that at Monday's LAB meeting there will be a discussion regarding a swim meet with a possible date in September.

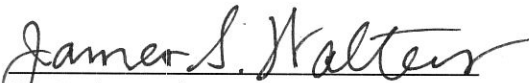
Ms. Krejci reviewed events and reviewed the Community Forum coming up on the 28th at LLCA.

Adjournment

Mr. Dittmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m. Mr. Watts seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be August 6, 2020 at 1:30 pm. In the Town of Lake Lure Town Hall.

ATTEST:


Jim Walters, Chairman


Kat Canant, Board Clerk



Dean Givens; Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation, and Lake

REPORT DATE:

June 30, 2020

PREPARED FOR:

Town Manager

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Boardwalk/Marina Project
2. New Boat ramp construction is complete
3. New fuel pump for marina is complete
4. Hired a new Parks, Rec and Trails Coordinator
5. New traffic pattern for the marina: Tri-city paving is complete

I. FOLLOW UP

1. Boardwalk/marina, Fire Suppression System
2. New boat ramp: aluminum decking and steps

II. OTHER

PR&LD ACTIVITIES:

1. Attended multiple meetings (Staff, LAB, P&R, Council, Marine Commission, and Projects)
2. Worked on multiple projects:
 - Boardwalk/Marina
 - New boat ramp
 - New loading dock
 - New traffic pattern for marina
 - Dredging
 - Amphitheater/Event lawn
 - Dredged small pond next to the gas station
 - Boys camp park
 - Training new employee
 - New signage for boardwalk/marina
 - Police in-service training
 - Making PR&L self-funded

- Landscaping plans for boardwalk/marina
 - Morton property dredging
 - Slip rental policy
 - LAB projects
3. Training new Parks, Rec, and Trails Coordinator

PR&TC ACTIVITIES:

1. Scouted all emergency access points for the Weed Patch Mountain Trail
2. Installed "No Trespassing" signs at 2 of the emergency access points on Weed Patch
3. Helped remove lake debris from docks
4. Learned how to replace old buoys on lake
5. Worked on creating new signage for the boat docks, marina, and boardwalk
6. Had new sign installed at Pool Creek Park boat ramp
7. Programmed trail counter for Flowering Bridge
8. Checked Buffalo Creek Park, Dittmer-Watts, and Weed Patch for downed trees
9. Helped recruit volunteers for upcoming trail maintenance days
10. Checked trails counters at BCP, Weed Patch, and Dittmer-Watts Nature Preserve
11. Attended several meetings
12. Worked on landscaping plan for new boardwalk
13. Assisted with getting a lost hiker off Weed Patch Mountain Trail
14. Collected water samples

P&R Maintenance Activities:

1. Performed regular ground maintenance activities at all areas.
2. Worked on lake debris clean-up
3. Cleaned parks, boat ramp, and marina
4. Mowed amphitheater twice a week
5. Took mower for repairs
6. Placed large rocks at Pool Creek Picnic Park to keep cars out
7. Replaced signs in the amphitheater area that were removed during grading
8. Put up social distancing signs
9. Replaced basketball nets in Morse Park
10. Worked with Dana on landscaping plan for new boardwalk
11. Painted directional arrow in Marina parking lot
12. Put up American flag bunting for the 4th

Lake Activities:

1. Boat maintenance
2. Boathouse Maintenance
3. Lake debris clean-up
4. Buoy replacement/maintenance
5. Worked with Hydro/Dam on walkway repairs

Kat Police

Subject:

FW: Weed Patch Mountain Trail Hours & Status Update - Spring & Summer 2020

From: Peter Barr [<mailto:peter@conservingcarolina.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:51 PM

To: 'larrycz62 (larrycz62@bellsouth.net)'; 'Dana Bradley' (danabradley99@gmail.com)

Subject: Weed Patch Mountain Trail Hours & Status Update - Spring & Summer 2020

Hello Dana & Larry,

This is Conserving Carolina's hours totals for spring & summer 2020 for the Weed Patch Mountain Trail:

March: 26.5 hours (12.5 staff hours + 14 volunteer hours)

April: 0 hours

May: 14.5 hours (6.5 staff hours + 8 volunteer hours)

June: 22.75 hours (8.25 staff hours + 14.5 volunteer hours)

CoVID-19 restrictions and safety severely limited each our volunteers and staff ability to address the WPM Trail in late March and throughout April, as it did all of our trails in the Hickory Nut Gorge. However, in late May and early June, volunteers and staff were able to clear three known down trees on WPM Trail, as well as several trees on the road itself. While WPM Trail is always subject to post-Party Rock fire down trees (often only days after us having cleared its length and irrespective of weather events), as of 6/19/20 we believed the trail to have been entirely clear of blowdowns and its tread in good condition throughout its length on ToLL-owned property.

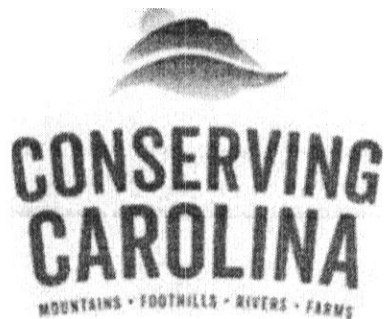
Conserving Carolina Trails Associate Devon Hathaway spent 6/22/20 with new ToLL Parks & Trails Coordinator Dana Bradley showing access points on-the-ground throughout WPM Trail's length on (and beyond) Buffalo Creek Park property. I will be following up with Dana re: WPM Trail maintenance logistics and conveyance of any remaining pertinent WPM Trail logistical information during the week of 7/6/20 via telephone. Several long standing issues still remain to addressed re: the WPM Trail, including recurring motorized dirt bike trespass and tread damage on both the WPM Trail and Grey Rock private access roads, acceptance of trail easements from Circle Rock & Villeponteaux landowners across private lands, broken plexiglass on the primary BCP primary trailhead tri-panel kiosk, and updating of interior signage of both the tri-panel and dual-panel kiosk content from the BCP trailhead and WPM Trail junction. I'm happy to be a continued partner in addressing these issues in partnership with Dana, Larry, and ToLL going forward.

It has been a pleasure to partner with ToLL in the protection of the 1,500+ acre Buffalo Creek Park beginning in 2009, the design and construction of the 8-mile Weed Patch Mountain Trail from April 2016 to April 2017, and the donation of extensive maintenance and management of all 8-miles of the newly-built WPM Trail for from April 2017 to June 2020. Since April 2017 to June 2020, Conserving Carolina donated totals of 2,774.25 volunteer hours and 883.75 staff hours to the Weed Patch Mountain Trail maintenance and management after the completion of its construction.

We are eager to be a continued resource in support of the WPM Trail on-the-ground when we are able, following our priorities of our own Hickory Nut Gorge trail responsibilities totaling 11.5 miles of existing trails, and 7.5 miles of new trails opening later this summer. Dana and Larry: each of you are always welcome to call upon myself and Conserving Carolina for any questions and guidance when needed going forward even though Conserving Carolina be relinquishing its maintenance and management abilities of the WPM Trail as of July 1, 2020.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,



Peter J. Barr

Trails Director

Conserving Carolina

Phone: 828.697.5777 ext. 215

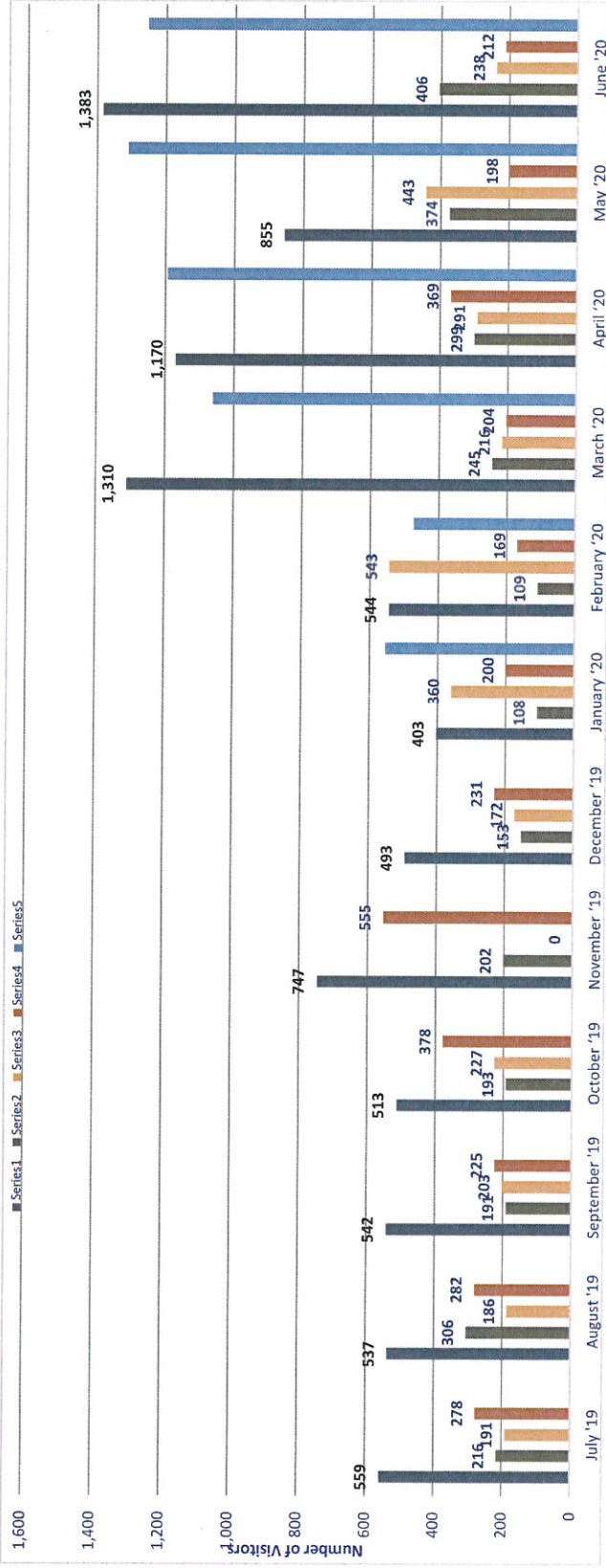
Email: peter@conservingcarolina.org

www.conservingcarolina.org

Please note that I am often in the field, away from internet connection. I will promptly read and respond to your message when available.

Trail Counter Data - Buffalo Creek Park, Weed Patch Mountain, and Dittmer-Watts Trails: June 2020

Site	June '19	July '19	August '19	September '19	October '19	November '19	December '19	January '20	February '20	March '20	April '20	May '20	June '20	Days with data
BCP Loop	513	559	537	542	513	747	493	403	544	1,310	1,170	855	1,383	165
BCP Loop Bike	204	216	306	191	193	202	153	108	109	245	299	374	406	182
WPM Bike	346	191	186	203	227	-	172	360	543	216	291	443	238	130
WPM Hiker	290	278	282	225	378	555	231	200	169	204	369	198	212	152
D-W Hiker							554	473	1,061	1,194	1,310	1,254	182	



June 2020 Report

The enthusiasm for golf continues as June 2020 was our busiest month ever. We hosted 1033 golfers and 48 FootGolfers. Comparatively, June of 2019 was a record month for Junes at 724, therefore a 309-round increase in golfers this June. Footgolf seems to be slowing but we are experiencing return players from years past who vacation here year after year.

The course is in good shape going into the heat of the summer. We always have our struggles but the aerification has helped so far and our trouble greens are improving albeit slowly. We are clearing some areas that had grown up, weed eating the creek banks and repairing some irrigation issues that have cropped up.

The Disc Golf guys have their course set for the Lake Lure Open. This year it will be contested over two days of 27 holes per day. They are anticipating 170 players with a mix of Professionals and Amateurs, men and women. September ~~11th~~^{12th} and ~~12th~~^{13th} are the tournament dates with practice rounds on Friday the 11th. They have begun preparing the additional 9 holes and fine tuning the 18 holes from last year.