



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
February 4, 2021 via ZOOM

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Mr. Ed Dittmer called to order the January 7, 2021 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Mr. Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Maureen Bay
Mr. Daniel Bragdon
Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate

Mr. Larry Czajkoski
Mr. Robin Worcester
Mr. Bill Massey

Board Members absent:

Mr. Jim Walters, Chairman

Town Council and Officials present:

Councilman Christopher Patrick Bryant

Other Town Staff Present:

Laura Krejci, Town of Lake Lure Communications Specialist
Ms. Dana Bradley – Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation and Trails Coordinator
Ms. Bailey Hornstein – Rutherford Outdoor Coalition

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the February 4, 2021 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the Agenda and Mr. Hoek seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Bragdon made a motion to approve the Minutes and Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Special Topics – Presentation & Discussion

Mr. Dittmer spoke to the Board and stated he would like to serve another term as the Vice Chairman. The Board was in agreement.

Mr. Massey made a Motion to approve Mr. Dittmer for another Term as Vice Chairman. Mr. Czajkoski seconded the Motion and all members of the Board voted in favor.

Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion

Parks, Recreation & Lake Report – Ms. Dana Bradley

Ms. Bradley reviewed the monthly report for January 2021. Ms. Bradley announced to the Board the award of a N.C. State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Grant that was awarded to the Town of Lake Lure for dredging. The total grant request was for \$850k. This is consisting of DEQ awarding \$637,500 and the Town's commitment by putting in ¼ of the \$850k, which is \$212,500. Ms. Bradley reviewed Luremont Trail and mentioned that it was on hold until permits are applied for and all is approved by Town Council. She also mentioned that she is applying for the RHI Legacy Grant, wherein a part of that would be designated for Luremont Trail. This grant would also help with the Buffalo Creek Park expansion. She felt very hopeful about the grant. There was a question about the future of the Golf Course wherein Ms. Bradley stated that Mr. Givens would be better with an update. There was a brief discussion for the use and purposes for the area. There was a discussion regarding possible permits needed now being that the State of North Carolina has new guideline for trails and outdoor spaces. Ms. Bradley said she would get with Mitchell Anderson with the Town's Zoning Department regarding any needs for permits. There was a discussion regarding a boat that was left at the new Town docks during the lake draw down and that it may have caused damage. Ms. Bradley stated she was aware of the boat and that it had caused no damage and she was unsure if there would be fines involved.

Mr. Dittmer asked Ms. Bradley if there was an update on the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan. Ms. Bradley stated that it had not been worked on yet. Mr. Dittmer mentioned that it should be a priority especially for any grants that were being applied for. There was a discussion regarding Coyotes and if a wildlife management team was going to look into the possible growing population. Ms. Bradley mentioned she had not heard of the matter but would inquire into the topic.

Ms. Bradley spoke of the timing for the RHI Grant and that the pre-application packet was due by May 15th, with the Grant Packet due afterwards and the grant should be awarded sometime in late August to early September.

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

Mr. Czajkoski mentioned the trail counter numbers and while the amount was down, it was still a good number for people using the trail. He felt this showed that locals were taking advantage of the trail during winter. He mentioned that having the new trail head and parking area would certainly help. Ms. Bradley discussed that new trail signs were ordered and that they would be metal signs adhered to plywood. Mr. Dittmer mentioned that the plywood backing had not held up on the Dittmer-Watts Trail and suggested thicker metal instead of the plywood backing. Ms. Bradley will look into this. Ms. Hornstein gave an update on workdays. She mentioned the Buffalo Creek Park Trail looked good, with just some minor erosion that was fixed. Weed Patch Mountain's workday was cancelled because the trail had held up so well. She discussed new workdays planned.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer mentioned there were no trees down but there was a small water diversion problem. He's given a list to Ms. Hornstein for future workdays. Ms. Hornstein discussed that the January workday involved removal of a couple of trees and they worked on diverting the water in some problem areas. There was discussion of the benches that needed replacing and that it would be a good project for the local Boys Scouts to do. Ms. Hornstein also mentioned that the school has planned a workday with students as a learning process into trail care and maintenance.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey discussed projects going on within the Flowering Bridge group. They have recently purchased a tool shed to house tools and they are having Duke Energy install power to the building. He discussed the compost framework that will be the location of their compost program. He mentioned that they will be working with the

Town on picking up the compost as needed. There was wind damage to the doors placed throughout the gardens and they will need repaired. He also discussed the Sled Display that is currently up. Mr. Massey was encouraged with the increased in the counter numbers from the last time they were able to count during the winter months.

Mrs. Bay announced the Valentines Special on path pavers. Normally the path pavers are \$200, but for Valentines they are 20% off and cost just \$160. The paver can be imprinted with a symbol and name and mentioned it would be a good time to show someone you care during Valentines by having a path paver made for them. They can be purchased up to March 8th and the cost includes shipping and installing, which will occur at the end of April. You can get more information on their website or on the bridge at the information areas.

Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters

Mr. Walters was having technical difficulties regarding ZOOM.

Carolina Climbers Coalition Virtual Rumble - Mrs. Moe Bay

Mrs. Bay updated the Board on information regarding the Virtual Rumble, which would be totally virtual. There would be no visitors in the Gorge from this event since it's virtual. She mentioned a new Bolder Trail that would be going up the mountain around the area of the winery in Chimney Rock. Mrs. Bay discussed the trail which will be called the Chimney Rock Boulder Tail. She felt that this trail would be a great attraction and would bring more climbers to the area. Mr. Bragdon inquired if Mrs. Krejci could get with the coalition and have some video about Lake Lure run during their virtual event. Mrs. Krejci will check into this.

Parks & Recreation Programs and Initiatives – Mr. Dan Bragdon

Mr. Bragdon reviewed with the Board that he is looking into bringing a summer intern from Appalachian State University to assist with programs this summer that could deal with creating programs, hikes and more in Lake Lure. This could help bring in concessioners during these programs. Housing for the intern has already been coordinated with Camp Lurecrest and there is no cost to the Town. Ms. Bradley was excited with this news and stated she would be happy to work with the intern.

Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Christopher Patrick Bryant

Commissioner Bryant mentioned that the lake should be up to full pond around February 18th. He informed the Board that the Dam inspection went well and that more will be discussed at the February Town Council Meeting and invited them to all tune in. He also mentioned AT&T had been out with preliminary strategic planning on a possible AT&T 5G Tower in the downtown Lake Lure area. Commissioner Bryant also mentioned that the same fireworks company that had done such a great job on New Year's, was giving Lake Lure a complimentary show on February 13th at dusk. Commissioner Bryant briefly reviewed the dredging grant that was awarded for dredging and equipment this year. There was further discussion regarding the grant.

Ms. Krejci reviewed the successful COVID vaccination day for Lake Lure residents which was held at Lake Lure Classical Academy and put on by Blue Ridge Health. There were 290 vaccinations given.

Adjournment

Mr. Massey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m. Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be March 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm. It is currently scheduled to be a ZOOM internet meeting.

ATTEST:

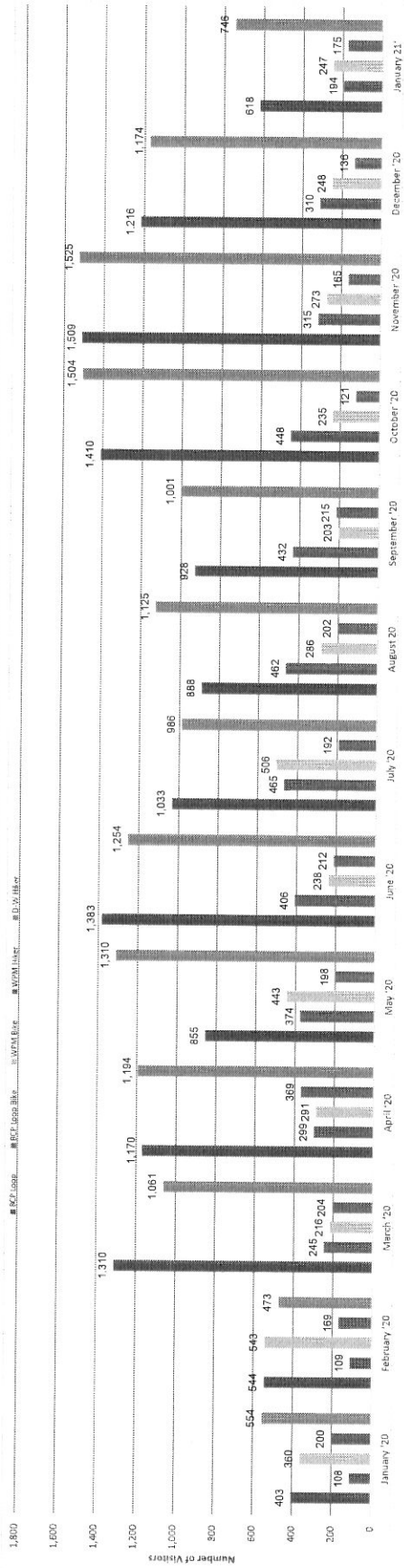
Kat Canant for Jim Walters
Jim Walters, Chairman

Kat Canant
Kat Canant, Board Clerk

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TRAIL COUNTER DATA - Buffalo Creek Park, Weed Patch Mountain, and Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails: January 2021

Site	November '19	December '19	January '20	February '20	March '20	April '20	May '20	June '20	July '20	August '20	September '20	October '20	November '20	December '20	January '21	Days with data
BCP Loop	747	483	403	644	1,310	1,310	1,170	855	1,383	1,033	838	828	1,504	1,509	1,525	31
BCP Loop Bike	202	153	108	108	245	290	290	374	408	465	432	448	315	310	394	31
WPM Bike	-	172	360	543	216	291	443	238	238	506	286	203	273	248	247	27
WPM Hiker	555	231	200	169	204	369	198	192	212	192	222	215	121	165	175	27
Sum of Sites	948	754	853	1,554	1,961	1,954	1,313	1,254	1,591	1,033	1,033	1,033	1,504	1,509	1,525	31

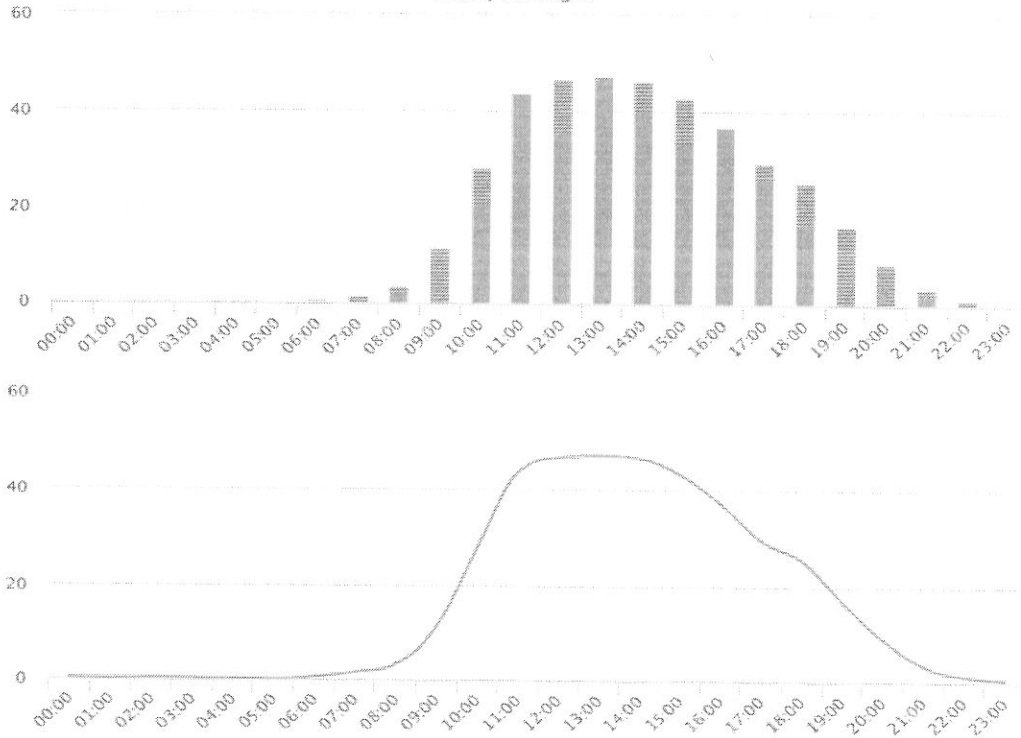


LAKE LURE FLOWERING BRIDGE

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Days with data
2018	LL Flowering Bridge						8,412	23,829	17,368	11,199	14,662	7,051	4,006	206
2019	LL Flowering Bridge	1,248	0	0	0	0	0	0						173
2020	LL Flowering Bridge							7,798	16,105	17,342	17,876	11,900	6,809	191
2021	LL Flowering Bridge	3,440												31

Hours of the day

2020-01-01 to 2021-01-31
Hourly averages



Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
LL Flowering Bridge	16.5	6.1	18.3	0.0	47.2

(D) = divide by 2 applied