

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM – VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 13, 2020
9:30 A.M.

Vice Mayor Jamerson presided over the August 13, 2020, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Vice Mayor Jamerson were Council Members Carpenter, Coletta, Dethero, Gooch and Posey, Village Clerk Parker and Village Administrator Christie.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Jamerson led the group in a moment of silent meditation. She then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – None

Agenda Approval/Changes

Council Member Coletta made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Betsy Gerwig – Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District – Stream Remediation PowerPoint Presentation

Ms. Gerwig reviewed a PowerPoint presentation showing a complete assessment of fourteen areas of potential improvements of three creeks located within the Park. There are several factors that control how to move forward: 1) Permitting for three permits: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (Division of Water Resources), and Henderson County Floodplain Development Permit & Erosion Plan; 2) Funding and Costs; and 3) Timing. Total estimated cost for stream restoration of the three streams is \$400,000 - \$800,000.

Mayor Weedman presided over the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Consent Agenda

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:
 - June 12, 2020 – Continued Council Meeting Minutes
 - June 29, 2020 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
 - July 9, 2020 – Council Meeting Minutes
 - Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Tax Settlement
 - Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Tax Charge

Vice Mayor Jamerson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the July 2020 zoning report dated August 10, 2020, and the Village Administrator report dated August 10, 2020 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter mentioned some highlights from Betsy Gerwig’s presentation on the stream assessment done on the three creeks in the park. Discussion of the remediation can be added to the agenda for the next park workshop.

Art in the Park Policy: The Park Commission and the Park Foundation agreed to work on a formal policy for accepting artwork for the Park. Draft policies from other organizations were distributed via e-mail to provide examples of how this can be done. Once finalized, the policy will be submitted to the Village Council for review and approval.

Park Workshop: Suggested date for the next park workshop is immediately following the October Council meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2020.

Pollinator Garden Arbor: Georgia Bonesteel and Will Garvey would like to do a short presentation to the Council at the August 31, 2020, Agenda meeting. Georgia Bonesteel has offered to donate funds to build arbors at both entrances to the Pollinator Garden. The arbors would be constructed of natural materials and would be 6.5 ft. tall, 50” wide, and 7 ft. long. Native flowering vines would be trained to cover the arbors, providing close-up views of butterflies, birds, caterpillars, etc. The Park Commission will submit a formal proposal and plans to the Village Council for review and approval.

Park Programs:

- Nature walks are still on hold until the Governor announces Phase 3.
- Yoga in the Park is consistently oversubscribed due to its popularity. Many first-time practitioners are signing up. Tracey is coordinating sign-ups with Pardee. Pardee has reduced the number of participants per session to a maximum of 18 to allow for social distancing if they need to use the Pavilion due to thunderstorm activity. Pardee also enforces an 8 ft. distance between mats and ensures no unauthorized people enter the exercise area.

Park Ranger Wilkerson prepared a Park at Flat Rock Budget Report – 4th Quarter, Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 totaling \$553,859.00.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch turned the meeting over to Mr. Dennis Flanagan. Mr. Flanagan reported the Foundation is continuing to receive funds for the Friends of the Park.

5. Transportation Update – Council Member Coletta

PARTF - **Council Member Coletta** is continuing to work with WGLA to gather information for the PARTF grant. NCDOT is requesting a new appraisal as the appraisal they were working with was over a year old and NCDOT wanted to take into consideration some minor changes in the park.

Road Project Update – North Highland Lake Road Improvement project is estimated to start the end of February 2021. The Kanuga Road project estimated start date is April 2024.

Page 16 of the CLUP – Council Member Coletta made the following motion: That the Flat Rock Village Council delete Page 16 of the Village’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan, currently titled *Planned Trails, Paths and Sidewalks*, from the CLUP as it does not reflect adequate community input, has not been evaluated from a historic preservation perspective, and could cause confusion with our area community partners as well as village property owners. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dethero. After discussions, the motion carried by a 4-yes, 2-no vote.

6. Tax Report – Mayor Weedman

No official report was available. Mayor Weedman reported the 2019 tax year ended with one delinquent account, and the resident has signed a contract to make payments. The 2020 tax statements will be mailed by end of the month.

Old Business – None

New Business

7. Village of Flat Rock Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan draft document – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta mentioned this report has been in development since 2016 and has been redrafted twice. Council Member Coletta made the following motion: That the Flat Rock Village Council receive as information the May 2019 report titled *Village of Flat Rock Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan*, prepared by Kimley-Horn, seconded by Council Member Posey. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Coletta made the following motion: That the Flat Rock Village Council reject the May 2019 report titled *Village of Flat Rock Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan*, prepared by Kimley-Horn, as not reflective of community input or the Village’s historic character. Council Member Carpenter seconded the motion. After discussions, the vote carried by a 5-yes, 1-no vote.

8. Historic Flat Rock – NCDOT Kanuga Road project – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta reported HFR has been working with private engineering professionals as well as NCDOT in terms of looking at the Kanuga Road project. East side of the project borders in the Flat Rock historic district. HFR has taken the lead to make sure any potential

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damage from water hydraulic damage is mitigated by some of the suggestions. HFR hired Vaughn & Melton and worked with an environmental landscape architect in Asheville who prepared a document of suggestions of areas along Kanuga Road for mitigation to help protect the district as well as reduce water runoff. HFR will send the document to the State Historic Preservation Office as a recommendation but SHPO makes the decision. HFR is asking Council to write a letter to SHPO in support of their recommendations. Mayor Weedman will execute the letter.

After discussions, Council Member Coletta made the following motion: That the Flat Rock Village Council encourage the State Historic Preservation Office to adopt mitigation requirements within the Flat Rock Historic District as related to the Kanuga Road project (NCDOT Project No. R-5748) suggested to SHPO by Historic Flat Rock, Inc. as developed by HFR in consultation with Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers and Equinox Environmental. We support these mitigation requirements as a way to ensure that the integrity of the Flat Rock Historic District is preserved and strengthened. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dethero and carried by unanimous vote.

Other Business

9. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Dethero reported there has been no activity on the Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park sewer line. He has started the kudzu program and has been in contact with Top Gun, and will start spraying Friday, August 14, 2020.

Council Member Posey reported the Election of Officers for the Planning Board took place at the August 4, 2020, meeting. Barbara Platz will serve as Chair and Bruce Holliday as Vice Chair for the coming year. The Sign Ordinance will go back to the Planning Board at the September meeting for a final review and to clarify a couple of changes. There will be a review of the Implementation Plan of the CLUP to verify that we are covering all the bases outlined as action items. Barbara Platz is scheduling a meeting of the short-term rental sub-committee for next week.

Council Member Posey thanked the Council Members who showed up in person last Thursday at the Village Hall to meet Luke Hunter, who wishes to serve on the Board of Adjustment. Council Member Posey made a motion to appoint Luke Hunter for a 3-year term to the Board of Adjustment beginning August 13, 2020 – August 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gooch and carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Posey reminded Council Shred Day/Drug Take Back Event is scheduled for October 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and asked if advised that we proceed with the event. Mayor Weedman stated there have been requests from residents to hold the event. Council Member Posey will contact Carolina Shred for confirmation of availability for October 10, 2020, and she will report back to Council at the September meeting.

Council Member Coletta reported the COVID Phase 2 extension is until September 11, 2020, 5:00 p.m. There will be free testing Saturday, August 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Henderson County Health Department.

Vice Mayor Jamerson mentioned Rafe Westbrook of First Citizens will be contacting her to set up a meeting for early part of September to discuss the Village's accounts.

Council Member Carpenter gave an update on the Kids on Trails program, and the County sent representatives to the Park to determine whether the trail will be handicap accessible. The trail is handicap accessible and is the first Kids on Trails in the County to be considered accessible. There are two programs being considered in the Park: Bear Wise program to be held in September or October (no official date has been established) and Sit, Step, and Sing, a program involving lining up park benches with seniors with limited mobility to do chair aerobics.

Mayor Weedman mentioned North Carolina is way behind on the 2020 census, and asked council members to spread the word to encourage participation in the census. Information to encourage participation will be included in the Village Record newsletter and on the Village's website.

Public Comments

Mr. Ted Etherington sent in a public comment via email regarding lowering the speed limit through the "downtown" of Flat Rock. Years ago, the Village Council pursued this request with NCDOT but was rejected. Mr. Etherington had contacted Mr. Steven Buchanan, NCDOT Division 14 Traffic Engineer who stated NCDOT would consider changing the speed limit if the request was initiated by the Village Council. Council agreed to contact NCDOT for possible reconsideration, and Council Member Carpenter will follow up.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Mayor